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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 43 • 23 October 2003

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971.

Halloween planners want ghosts, not ghouls

by Matthew S. Bajko

Boosters of this year's sobered-up Castro Halloween street party have only eight days left to get their message out: either come costumed to have a good time or stay at home.

Billboards and transit ads are up throughout the Bay Area advising would-be attendees that there will be "no booze, no bashing, and no bad costumes" allowed at this year's party. Radio public service announcements will be broadcast all week alerting those listeners in the suburbs that this year's Castro Halloween has a zero tolerance attitude.

"We have made strategic alliances with Clear Channel and Viacom. They are donating hundreds of PSAs that will air a safe, fun, costume-oriented party in the Castro message," said one of the party's planners, Terrance Alan, chairman of the San Francisco Late Night Coalition and a member of the city's Entertainment Commission. "You name the radio station suburban kids are listening to and we hope [the PSAs] are on them."

Twelve months in the making, this year's annual Halloween bash aims to embark on a new path, one filled with ghostly goings-on and entertainment meant to put the throngs into a (friendly) party mood. Unlike years past, where bottles of booze could be bought from local package stores or shop owners sold beer by the can on the sidewalk, this time out police and city officials have declared the party a dry event. Drinking will only be allowed inside the numerous bars in the neighborhood, with agents from the state Alcohol and Beverage Control bureau on the lookout for underage drinking and drug use.

The Castro neighborhood will be cordoned off by police blockades with officers stationed at gates ready to confiscate alcoholic beverages and any unsafe costume accouterments, like the working chainsaw someone toted along last year. This year, revelers will be asked for a \$3 donation at the gate, with proceeds going to benefit local nonprofit groups.

Yet for all the changes, officials

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Terrance Alan

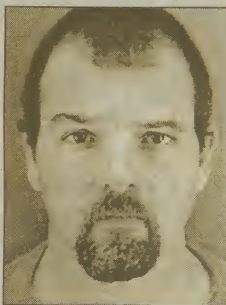
Judge orders trial for grisly murder of gay man

by Cynthia Laird

It was the "thousands" of flies on the exterior hallway wall of her neighbor's apartment that made Stephanie Henry increasingly suspicious in mid-August 2002.

Several weeks later, on September 10, 2002, San Francisco police discovered the decomposed remains of 56-year-old Gary Lee Ober in the bathtub of his Bemis Street apartment in San Francisco's Glen Park neighborhood.

James McKinnon, 38, was arrested three days after Ober's body was discovered and charged with his murder. Following a preliminary hearing last Thursday, October 16 in San Francisco Superior Court, McKinnon



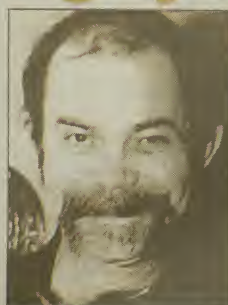
Defendant James McKinnon

was ordered to stand trial in the alleged killing. He has pleaded not guilty and remains in custody in the county jail.

During last week's preliminary hearing, Henry broke down in tears as she recounted the foul odor emanating from Ober's residence, across the hall from her own

apartment. McKinnon, who had been staying at Ober's apartment, told Henry that Ober had won a Walt Disney cruise and was out of town and that he was taking care of the plants.

"He told me Lee [Ober] would be back



Gary Lee Ober

the following Tuesday," Henry told Judge Peter Busch during her testimony. "I never saw my friend again."

Following the daylong hearing, Busch said that there was ample evidence placing McKinnon in Ober's apartment at the time of the alleged murder, and cited McKinnon's own claim made during a jail-house interview he

gave to Bay Area Reporter writer Ed Walsh in late September 2002, that he killed Ober in self-defense.

"You continued to be there weeks after—

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Mayoral candidates offer plans to rebuild SF economy

by Zak Szymanski

When Mayor Willie Brown ran for reelection in 1999, San Francisco rents were exorbitant and climbing, office vacancies were in the single digits, and the dot-com labor force was spending its millions all over the city.

Some could see the bust coming, and warned that haphazard over-development, excessive salaries, and tenant evictions-for-profit would not withstand the economic test of time. But many didn't prepare for the worst, and as a result, lower rents aside, the city has suffered.

Mayoral candidates both gay and straight know that their task will include rebuilding San Francisco's economy. Some will approach this from a "bottom line" perspective, relying on numbers and charts to define recovery. Others will not be satisfied with a return to the "boom" days that made San Francisco look nice on paper but prompted Brown to advise middle-income folks to leave the city.

From inventive labor licenses to comprehensive plans for development, most of the candidates in the running for mayor are offering specific solutions to San Francisco's economic woes.

Candidates' platforms

Former Supervisor Angela



Mayoral candidate Gavin Newsom, center, during a merchant walk in the Castro earlier this year with Patrick Batt, right, and Gustavo Serina, left.

Alioto has emphasized preferential hiring and buying from city residents, in order to ensure that wages and profits stay within San Francisco. Her other ideas include subsidies as incentives for businesses to open and operate in San Francisco.

Supervisor Tom Ammann approaches the city's economic gaps as a lack of infrastructure, and his proposal is to rebuild the city from the inside out, providing all homes and businesses with broadband wiring and improved water, sewer, and transportation projects; creating business and job incentives; and implementing his "rainy day fund," on the November ballot in the form of Proposition G, which would mandate that 50 percent of all extraordinary growth in city



Candidate Angela Alioto

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B.A.R. endorsements



SF Mayor
 Gavin Newsom
 SF District Attorney
 Kamala Harris
 SF Sheriff
 Michael Hennessey



Hayward School Board: Grant Peterson, Sarah Gonzales

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOV. 4

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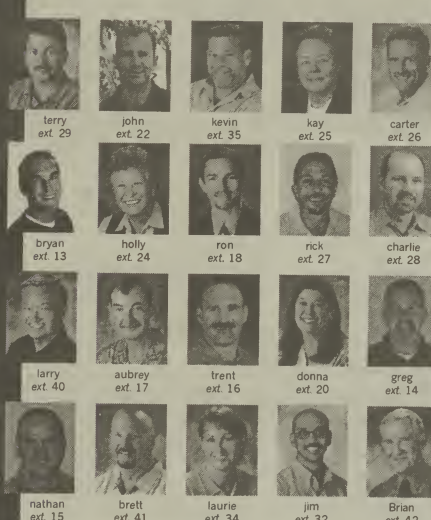
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Jewish tradition celebrated



Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, left, holds the Torah and joins members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav during the traditional Simchat Torah celebration on Dolores Street Friday, October 17. About 250 synagogue members danced in the street to klezmer music following the Shabbat service.

Crystal meth money awarded from city

by Matthew S. Bajko

As city officials continue to target what they describe as a crystal meth crisis afflicting the gay community, the health department announced Tuesday, October 21 that it is allocating \$425,000 to help deal with the problem.

The money will be divided among service providers to increase help for both gay youth and adults who are seeking assistance in kicking their methamphetamine addiction. The funding is also an increase over the original \$300,000 the department had said it would allocate toward crystal meth treatment.

After holding two public forums on crystal meth, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who has

made tackling crystal use among gay men a top concern since entering office last year, has been working with health officials to reprioritize funding and budget more resources to agencies working with gay men who abuse drugs.

"These initiatives result from my City Services Committee hearings that underscored the epidemic of crystal meth and the need for specific services to prevent adolescents and young adults from becoming hooked on crystal and seroconverting because of high-risk behavior," said Dufty, who chairs the committee.

The funding is being divided to both help eliminate the waiting list for clinical services for speed users and to develop new adolescent and young adult services that address the dual challenges of

HIV risk and substance abuse.

"We are in a crisis and need to provide more services to young people. I am so grateful the health department sees the same gap that I see," said Dufty.

The San Francisco AIDS Office is awarding \$75,000 to New Leaf: Services For Our Community and \$100,000 to the Stonewall Project specifically to help both agencies reduce their waiting lists for clinical services.

"This is going to allow us to increase clinician time. We need to figure out what FTE [full time equivalent employees] we are going to hire and how many clients we are going to be able to see," said Joseph Neisen, New Leaf's executive director. "I would say we are probably going to be hiring approximately one FTE or

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Magnet health event bares men's behinds

by Matthew S. Bajko

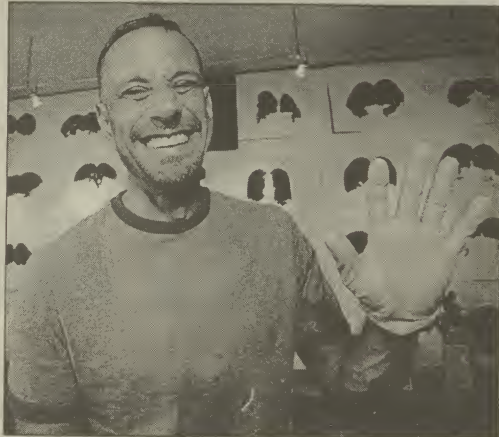
Some resemble fingerprints magnified tenfold. Others appear to be faces, with two eyes and a rather bulbous nose.

In fact, they are black latex paint prints of butts (and a few penises) on white paper, with a special print done in the reverse. Fifty of these prints adorn the "Wall of Butts" at Magnet, the gay men's health clinic in the Castro.

More than just a fun experiment to see just who is willing to drop their pants, spread paint on their bottom and reveal to the world a rear-end reproduction, it is an exercise in educating the gay male community about the importance of proper anal health.

To cap off its "Take Back the Butt Month," Magnet will be hosting a Butt Basics Symposium tomorrow (Friday, October 24) to help educate men about the beauty, and potential health hazards, to be found hidden in their anal cavities. Along with Frank Strona, who will present a Butt Basics 101 workshop, the star attraction of the symposium will be Dr. John Grant from the Stonewall Project, who will do a Rorschach reading of the posterior prints.

"While standard Rorschach tests may provide a way to see into the deepest recesses of a person's psyche (or so believers say), these 'anal Rorschachs' may provide a glimpse into another deep-



Magnet's Kevin Roe gets ready to make a butt print.

vide a glimpse into another deep-recess," explained Magnet community organizer Kevin Roe, who donned latex gloves to assist the men in making their rump Rorschachs. "The reading is both a sort of tongue-in-cheek reading and a traditional Rorschach test. [Dr. Grant] will look at each one and give generally what he sees as a psychologist and look at them as a gay man."

As for what is revealed to Roe when he gazes upon his collection of caboosees, "As you can see, no

two butts are exactly alike."

More than a joke

All joking aside, the event does have a serious angle to it. Gay men can be afflicted with various anal ailments, from prostate problems, anal warts, and anal cancer to hemorrhoids, and this is a fun way to handle such topics, asserted Roe.

"As a health education tool, the Wall of Butts helps us be more at ease with a part of the anatomy

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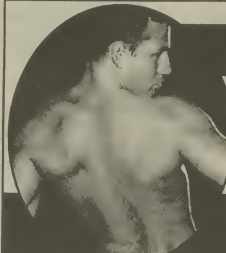
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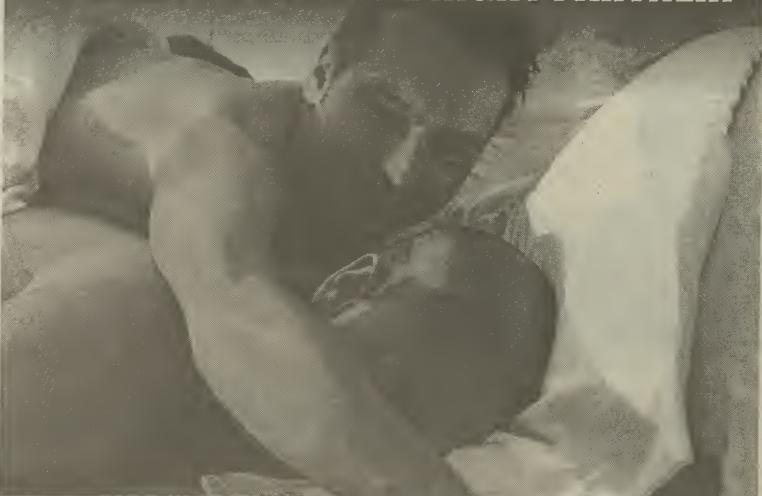


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Gonzalez 'hit piece' called divisive

by Zak Szymanski

A mailer that arrived in homes last week from the Matt Gonzalez mayoral campaign had some politicos crying foul over what they said was a misleading and immoral attempt to attack a fellow progressive candidate.

"Actions speak louder than words," said the heading of the Gonzalez mailer, which was followed by a chart comparing the voting records of Gonzalez to Supervisors Gavin Newsom and Tom Ammiano, who are also mayoral candidates.

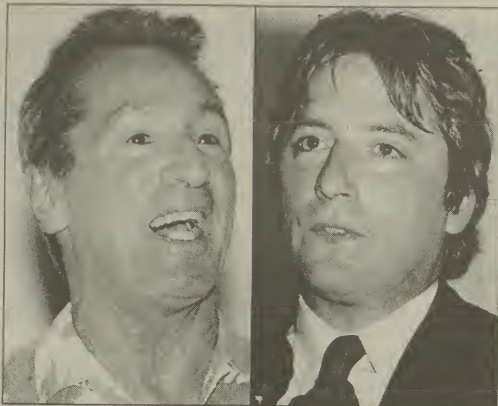
The issues highlighted by the mailer included votes to reduce government staff, to pay off corporations for their multimillion dollar business tax lawsuit, to prohibit Clear Channel's control of newspaper racks, to accept campaign contributions year-round, and to purchase zero-emission busses over diesel powered vehicles. Many of Ammiano's votes were shown to be the same as Newsom's, while Gonzalez was shown as taking the seemingly more progressive stance. Only those three mayoral candidates were highlighted by the Gonzalez campaign, which meant, to many progressives, that Gonzalez was attacking Ammiano's progressive credentials.

"I would query how it is 'progressive' to attack another progressive and distort their record. How does it benefit the movement in San Francisco to act in such a destructive fashion?" said a statement from Robert Haaland, pres-

ident of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, which endorsed Ammiano in the race. "At the end of the day, the ends of Matt's campaign do not justify the means ... how you do things is sometimes much more important and will result in lasting change.

"While I am repulsed by Matt's mailer, I ultimately think it is weak. No one in their right mind honestly thinks Tom's record is similar to Gavin's record," Haaland continued, adding that Ammiano's 30 years of public service "are in stark contrast to Gavin's. Tom was one of two school teachers who came out during the Briggs initiative that tried to ban gay school teachers. Tom directed traffic the night of the White Night riots. Tom was the first openly gay man to run for school board. Tom brought back district elections and gave us a living wage, not a minimum wage."

In an interview with the *Bay*



Mayoral candidates Tom Ammiano and Matt Gonzalez

Area Reporter, Haaland said that any one of the progressives in the race could selectively choose a few

votes from others to demonstrate what may look like a less progressive stance.

"However," said Haaland, "Tom's not going to put out a mailer suggesting that Matt is not really a progressive. It's morally reprehensible."

Gonzalez's spokesman, Ross Mirkarimi, told the *B.A.R.* that while he has received criticism for the mailers, he has also received praise for them.

"I've heard a myriad of comments from folks like Robert — whose opinions I relish — that the mailer was misdirected and unfair," said Mirkarimi. "I've also heard from many in the progressive community that the mailer seemed right on message."

The message being, said Mirkarimi, that not all the progressives in this race are alike.

"It is the Gonzalez campaign's feeling that media in general hasn't evaluated the candidates well enough to compare and contrast where they stand in position to each other," he said. ▼

Candidates present their ideas at LGBT center Sunday

by Zak Szymanski

Improving jobs and tourism, tackling homelessness, and helping San Franciscans achieve and maintain health and wellness are a few topics of importance to the LGBT community, and on Sunday, October 26, all nine mayoral candidates have been invited to participate in a candidates forum to address these issues and more.

Candidates for mayor are: former Supervisor

Angela Alioto, Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, company president Michael Denny, city Treasurer Susan Leal, Supervisor Gavin Newsom, contractor Jim Reid, former police chief Tony Ribera, and computer company executive Roger Schulke.

The forum will be held at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, from noon until 3 p.m. and is co-sponsored by Bay Area Community of Women and the Golden Gate Business Association.

"This should be a wonderful opportunity

to hear answers to or questions concerning issues relating to our community, our businesses, and our neighborhoods," said LGBT Community Center Executive Director Thom Lynch. "We are very excited to connect community members with civic leadership. This is just one strategy in our efforts to build the cultural, political, and economic future of San Francisco's LGBT community."

All members of the public are invited to attend this free event; space may be limited. Call (415) 865-5555 for more information. ▼

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NLGJA honors two veteran journalists

by Ed Walsh

A packed house at Harry Denton's Starlight Room, atop the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in Union Square, greeted journalists David Tuller and Belva Davis, this year's winners of the Excellence in Journalism Award from the Northern California chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

The honors were presented on Monday, October 20, to salute the career achievements of the two journalists who were selected by the NLGJA board after being nominated by its 100-plus local members.

Davis, one of the most honored and respected television journalists in the country, was lauded for her coverage of gay issues long before it became fashionable.

Tuller was recognized for his work over the past 15 years writing about gay and lesbian issues and health related topics. Currently a freelance writer for the *New York Times*, Tuller was a longtime reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and he authored a book about gay life in Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union. Tuller was introduced by *Chronicle* reporter Carol Ness, who said that he told her that the best way to introduce him was to say that he was "the only man in *Chronicle* history to wear a skirt on the last day of work."

"I just feel very lucky because I just had a good time," Tuller said. "I just think it's kind of amazing to

have a job where you get to just call people up and ask them questions. And for some very strange reason, which I still can't figure out, they actually usually answer you and tell you the weirdest things."

Tuller told the crowd that he was motivated in his work at the *Chronicle* by a curiosity about what motivated different types of people. He recounted writing about a fundamentalist couple from Idaho. The couple, he said, was happy about what he wrote, feeling that it accurately characterized their life, while many of the *Chronicle's* readers "thought they were out of their minds."

Davis was introduced by Ray Bradford, the national director for Equal Employment Opportunities for the American Federation of

Television and Radio Artists, a broadcasters' union.

Bradford said he thought of Davis as his second mother and listed her career achievements since 1966, when she became the first female African American television reporter west of the Rockies. Davis is currently in semiretirement as the host of KQED's *This Week in Northern California* and as an occasional special projects reporter for KRON-TV. Bradford noted that in the mid 1970s, while working for KQED, Davis was instrumental in the hiring of Randy Shilts, the Bay Area's first openly gay television reporter and later delivered the first report from San Francisco General Hospital about AIDS. Bradford cited Davis's tireless efforts working

with him for domestic partner rights for AFTRA members.

"This is a very special night for me," Davis told the crowd. "I just can't tell you how touched I am. ... When you've been doing something for 30 years and you do something because you think it should be done, you don't think someone should give you a plaque for it."

Davis said she was grateful for the support of her colleagues in TV news for giving her the freedom to voice her views.

"It's sometimes difficult in that environment, where people have not been denied very much, to convince them that they have to fight to ensure that people who are being denied their rights should have that privilege," she

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Journalist David Tuller

Charges reduced for Gay Shamers

by Zak Szymanski

The residual drama of last February's protest outside the LGBT Community Center against Supervisor Gavin Newsom finally concluded for two members of the direct action group Gay Shame last Friday, October 17, when the remaining charges against them were reduced in San Francisco Superior Court.

Activists Matthew Luton and Matthew Bernstein had faced misdemeanor charges of police inter-

ference for their role in the controversial protests that ended with numerous injuries to activists and allegations of police misconduct.

Luton and Bernstein's charges were reduced to infractions of making a "malicious loud noise," punishable by a \$50 fine, which was waived in light of jail time served, according to their attorney Dennis Cunningham.

The pair had planned to take the case all the way to a jury trial, and they issued subpoenas to Newsom and Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who reportedly witnessed

the protest. But Cunningham said that when charges "are reduced to basically nothing ... it's hard not to take it."

Two other activists from the night in question — Jaime Coan and Zebadya Lee — had originally faced felony charges of "lynching," defined as "the taking by means of a riot of any person from the lawful custody of any peace officer." Those felony charges were reduced early on to misdemeanor resisting arrest charges, and members of Gay Shame said that all but one of the

cases stemming from that protest have been finalized. The San Francisco District Attorney's Web site reports that Coan is next scheduled to appear in court on November 18.

Cunningham, a well-known civil rights attorney, said he wasn't surprised that the cases continued to be active eight months after the incident.

"It's not unusual for police officers to beat people up and then charge them with crimes," Cunningham told the *Bay Area Reporter*. ▼

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Please join with Alice, Mark Leno and these community organizations in supporting these candidates: Affordable Housing Alliance, Mexican American Political Alliance, National Women's Political Caucus - SF, Noe Valley Democratic Club, Raoul Wallenberg Jewish Democratic Club, San Francisco Police Officers Pride Alliance, San Francisco Women's Political Committee, San Francisco Young Democrats, Westside Chinese Democratic Club.



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OPEN FORUM

A church divided?

The Episcopal Church in the United States and the worldwide Anglican Communion of which it is a part could split over the installation of openly gay Bishop-elect the Reverend Gene Robinson, who is scheduled to be consecrated as bishop of New Hampshire on November 2. Robinson, as most readers will recall, was chosen by New Hampshire clergy and parishioners earlier this year and confirmed by the national Episcopal Church in August, following a divisive debate and the attempted smearing of Robinson's reputation by a man who lodged a complaint about "touching" just hours before the vote was to occur. The allegations against Robinson were dismissed quickly; and, as we wrote a few months ago, Robinson stood firm during the 11th hour attack that was blatantly homophobic.

Now, as the date for his consecration nears, those same antigay forces are trying to stop it and threatening to divide the church. Robinson is facing extreme pressure from social conservatives in the church, and some of his own parishioners, who wonder if he should consider stepping aside in the interests of preserving the larger church. It has been reported that Robinson has struggled with this issue, but his faith has remained firm. "If I step down, do you really think other qualified gays and lesbians wouldn't be elected?" he replied to a parishioner, according to an Associated Press report. Over the weekend, he also said the obvious: that there have been gay bishops throughout the history of the Episcopal Church, he was just being open about it.

On Wednesday, during another interview with the AP, Robinson said that the only thing that could sway him would be if he felt a personal call from God to stand aside.

"God and I have been about this for quite awhile now and I would be really surprised if God were to want me to stop now," he said. "It's not about me. It's about not having to be ashamed."

Robinson's election as bishop was a milestone in the wider religious community, and signals a turning point of sorts in the debate

over homosexuality that is occurring in several denominations. The right-wing homophobes continually attempt to use religion against the LGBT community and they can't stand that an openly gay, devoutly religious man has been elected bishop of a major mainstream religion.

We say, it's about time.

Robinson should not back down, even if he gets a message to step aside from Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the spiritual leader of the world's Anglicans. So far, Williams has not delivered such a message, even after an emergency meeting in London last week that was called to address the issue. Clergy and parishioners in New Hampshire called on Robinson to serve as their bishop, and their wishes should be respected and upheld.

Last week, in a vulgar display of homophobia, religious conservatives held a "Mar-

riage Protection Week" that was endorsed by many Republicans in Congress and even President Bush. It's clear that gay marriage is shaping up to be the wedge issue for the 2004 presidential race, even though all the major Democratic candidates oppose gay marriage. It's a move designed to incite rabid antigay talk and to fan the flames of the religious right so that they'll turn out next November to vote for Bush.

Those sorts of actions will do nothing to further the fight for equality. Robinson's consecration as bishop, however, will open up dialogue and show the world that out gays can hold leadership positions in churches.

So Bishop-elect Robinson, we salute you in your determination to serve your faith.

If the small-minded, homophobic Episcopal leaders persist in splitting from the Anglican Communion, so be it. ▼

Editorial



SHOOT-OUT AT THE ANGLICAN CORRAL

No on M, yes on L

by Tommi Avicoli Mecca

Last year, California Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger put on the ballot a state initiative (Proposition 49) to set up after-school programs. But though it passed, there will be no increased after-school programs in California, as we were led to believe. Why? Because the proposition did not include a funding mechanism. Asked about it in the recent debates, Schwarzenegger said the initiative was only a "first step."

In other words, a platform for his political career.

Similarly, Proposition M, the anti-panhandling measure on the November ballot here in San Francisco, is a platform for Supervisor Gavin Newsom and his downtown buddies (the Hotel Council and the Chamber of Commerce among them) who want to elect Newsom mayor.

Consider: Proposition M does nothing to stop homelessness. It will not build affordable housing, nor provide food or clothing, healthcare, or any other needed services for those who are living on the streets. It will not decrease the numbers of people who are sleeping in cars or under bridges. Despite what its shameless billboards imply, it will not stop homeless deaths. These billboards, like Bush's "weapons of mass destruction," are meant to deceive voters. Proposition M will fine and/or jail people for the "crime" of asking for money on the streets. It will not address homelessness in any way, shape, or form. Its backers rely on Willie Horton-like stereotypes of drug-addicted and alcohol-crazed homeless folks who beg coins on the street to pay for their next high. This stereotyping of homelessness folks is no different, nor any less offensive and demeaning, than straight stereotyping of queers as nelly

queens and stomping dykes.

Proposition M has another serious problem: it will never be implemented. First of all, there's the price tag. It will cost \$3,700 per person to enforce, according to the city controller's office (See *Street Sheet*, October 2003). And it won't even get that person off the streets, it will merely fine him. If the person lands in jail it will cost \$88 a night. Talk about overpriced accommodations.

Then there's the First Amendment issues. If someone can be fined or arrested for panhandling, a protected form of speech, what's to stop the government from going after groups who table at 18th and Castro? It's not such a stretch considering the Patriot Act I and II. What's to stop the Girl Scouts or the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence from being fined for panhandling since they, too, beg money on the streets. And, no offense, but sometimes they get pretty "aggressive."

So even if this law survives a court test, which is doubtful, will the police and district attorney's office have the resources to enforce it? No way. Imagine the police standing around ATM machines and median strips all day waiting for someone to panhandle so they can cite them. Or police answering a call from an outraged citizen about panhandling while other more urgent calls await responses. If Proposition M is not going to be enforced, what's the point? If it's going to cost the city tons of money, why bother? Wouldn't it be better to implement real programs for getting folks off the streets and into housing and other services?

If you really want solutions to homelessness, contact the Board of Supes and ask them to implement Continuum of Care (http://www.sfgov.org/site/lhcb_index.asp?i

d=685) or the Coalition on Homelessness' 10-point plan (call 415-346-3740 for a copy). These are things that can work because they are comprehensive and treat homelessness as the complex crisis it is. The homeless are not a monolithic group. As someone who works with low-income folks, I can assure you that the homeless include pregnant women living in their cars, workers with jobs who can't afford the obscene rents in this town, families down on their luck, people with AIDS, and queer youth who came here for refuge from middle America.

To send a message that we want real solutions to homelessness and not the shameless misuse of the initiative process for political gain, vote no on M!

Meanwhile, if you really want to help tackle homelessness and poverty, vote yes on L, another proposition on the November ballot.

Proposition L will increase the current San Francisco minimum wage from \$6.75 to \$8.50 an hour. It will give queer youth who just arrived here and working-class queers and queers of color a real fighting chance at living in the gay mecca. It could mean the difference between someone having an apartment and living on the streets. It gives 50,000 San Franciscans who receive minimum wage, most of whom are of color, a much-deserved raise.

There can be no argument: Even Mother Teresa couldn't live here on \$6.75 an hour. Vote yes on L. ▼

Tommi Avicoli Mecca is a longtime queer antiwar and social justice activist who writes a regular column for the SF Sentinel (sanfranciscosentinel.com) and occasional op-eds for the Bay Guardian.

LETTERS

Dim Dale's cut and paste job

Republican footstool Dale Carpenter's deluded revisionism of events continues unabated. But his cut and paste job on Arnold Schwarzenegger ["Arnold and the paranoid style in gay politics," *OutRight*, October 16] is a new low in hypocrisy.

"Schwarzenegger is in no sense 'antigay,'" Carpenter says.

So, repeatedly using the term "faggot," and taunting the Democrats at Republican national conventions with the famed "girly man" phrase is pro-gay? Okay, I know a Log Cabiner's idea of pro-gay means "They haven't killed me yet, so they must like me."

In lauding Arnold for his "pro-gay" words (and possible support for domestic partners bills with no promise whatsoever), Carpenter conveniently omits the other sentence, in which Arnold spewed the tired phrase, "Marriage is between a man and a woman." Carpenter literally cuts Arnold's quotes to suit his biased, sycophantic point of view.

Carpenter carps that liberals consider Schwarzenegger a "Black Death," "a Hitler," and that we're not "sensible."

He of course, again, omits facts. Schwarzenegger's father was a Nazi storm trooper in Austria, and the former bodybuilder has repeatedly been quoted as saying he "admired Hitler."

He then omits the news of Arnold's numerous alleged sexual harassment accusations.

Having been more than gay-friendly during his rise to fame with "sponsors" in the bodybuilding circuit, Arnold has apparently been given carte blanche by the GOP gay cabal that loves a little secret.

Carpenter of course omits the fact that Arnold was quoted at a bodybuilding event for repeatedly using a racial epithet not unlike the last part of his name.

Of course, to a white Log Cabiner like Carpenter, blacks are only useful when they're equally duplicitous members of the GOP.

Claiming the election was about economics, Carpenter then ignores Arnold's dubious financial roots: Pete Wilson, Warren Buffet, and a host of Enron-style colluders, who have succeeded in making Arnie's first mission that of letting them and power companies off the hook for having caused our statewide fiscal crisis.

Carpenter should realize that there's a difference between a supposed gay-friendly Republican governor, and a gay-baiting, cockteasing actor who will merely be a whore to the wealthy.

Big tent? Sure! Drug addicts like Rush Limbaugh, sex addicts like Arnie, venom-spewing Tammy Bruce, neofascist Pat Buchanan, Apocalypse-encouraging Georgie Bush, even schizophrenic masochistic gay white men.

Some Democrats may be paranoid, but at least we're not completely delusional, as is Carpenter.

Do you actually pay this dolt to continually spew this ridiculous tripe? You've got enough political drivel with Wayne Friday.

Michale Adamski
Oakland, California

Distressed at B.A.R. endorsement

We are saddened to see that the mayor's race is turning candidates into commodities, and that the mayor's post can be secured via a well-financed marketing blitz. We are distressed that entirely qualified gay candidates, who do not have the cash to call every voter four times, have been rejected by the B.A.R. for endorsement. Harvey Milk, a proponent of gay self-representation, would be shocked to see us handily rejecting our own qualified candidates, as if everything is just fabulous for LGBTs in San Francisco today.

Susan Leal is our choice for mayor, based on her strong qualifications and experience in city governance. She possesses a broad, contemporary understanding of the many and varied constituencies in San Francisco, and her ability to build coalitions is crucial for our future. Nevertheless, Tom Ammiano is a perfectly viable and credible gay candidate, whose record and candidacy should be taken seriously. Meanwhile, the Gavin Newsom marketing machine, set in place with Care Not Cash, is in overdrive. Of course we all want a solution to the homeless situation, and respect his sincerity in finding one. Part of the solution to homelessness is more jobs, more rental inventory, and more homeownership for all San Franciscans. The financially astute Leal is best prepared to lead this effort.

To vote for Gavin on the basis of a marketing campaign or on the basis of one issue is, in our view, a mistake. To bypass our own LGBT candidates sends a signal to the big money behind Gavin, that yes, our community vote can be bought by bombarding us with repetitious messages from a handsome, youthful candidate. What a relief that must be to large, vested interests outside of our community, who privately really do not (in their heart of hearts) want to see a gay mayor representing San Francisco. May the best queer win!

Kathleen M. Connell
Jaye Whittaker
San Francisco

Is Ammiano running for queen or mayor?

Tom Ammiano's knee-jerk reaction to the *Bay Area Reporter's* endorsement of Gavin Newsom for mayor, sadly, stoops to lurid speculation fit only for a queen. The *Independent* reported in a special edition on Saturday, October 18 that Ammiano said, "I think [BAR publisher] Bob Ross wants Newsom to give him [oral sex]." Can anyone imagine Susan Leal stooping to such crass rationalizing to become San Francisco's first gay or lesbian mayor?

The gay community has long been known to obsess over the penis size of famous men. It wouldn't surprise me if Ammiano next stoops to speculating on the penis size of his male opponents for the mayor's throne, as you never know what to expect out of his mouth. At the HIV Prevention Awards on October 1, 2002, queen Ammiano spelled out his name to assist an emcee stammering over its pronunciation: "That's 'A,' double-'M,' as in 'Mary,' 'I,' 'A,' 'N' as in 'Nelly,' 'O.' I am really honored ... to uh, introduce my sister ... [Hank Wilson]." It sounded well-rehearsed and often repeated (including the wrong pronoun), not an ad lib performance.

Speculating on who wants whom to perform oral sex transcends mere gay humor; it descends to vacuous conversation only snide queens - miffed by the loss of a mere endorsement - regale one another with. Is this what we want, or expect, from our next mayor? If Ammiano is elected, will he publicly accuse members of the Board of Supervisors with similar vacuous gossip when stymied as mayor? Do we want a nelly queen-wannabe-mayor sporting a loose mouth, or a mayor who chooses words carefully?

As a gay man, I can't bring myself to vote for a candidate whose mind, and mouth, is stuck in the identity politics gutter. LGBT people who reject identity politics voting should demand that this queen step out of the mayor's race immediately for this embarrassment to our entire community, which illustrates in part why Ammiano is unfit to be mayor. For that matter, all voters should reject Tom for his most recent loutish foul mouth.

Patrick Monette-Shaw
San Francisco

Tammy Bruce isn't so bad

I read with deep interest the article concerning Schwarzenegger appointing Ms. Tammy Bruce to a position on his transition team ["Controversial lesbian named to Schwarzenegger transition team," *October 16*].

I think the article is informative and somewhat balanced, however, its tone and headline has a suggestive demeanor of impending woe rather than hope.

That old sound of sour grapes does seem to filter through and really folks, it's time to step back, take a breath, and smell the outcome not just of the results, but all the reasons how and why many of us right here believed crossing the party line was the best thing that any responsible minded citizen legally eligible to vote could do in order to reject the pandering low brow arrogance of Cruz Bustamante, the stupidity of Gray Davis, and the gathered pigs at the trough of this state's government.

Every time someone comes along such as Ms. Bruce that has a different take on life or reality in our lives they are immediately attacked by those same liberal elite that are on record for stating Fidel Castro is a great man, when if you recall he had those folks that tried to leave his rotten country's suppressive regime shot. The highest crime being they stole a boat from the people.

I won't pretend, lie, embellish, or say I know a great deal about Ms. Bruce, but I will say I can already smell the task of this article constructed in the manner it's presented is once again those who fear anything with a slightly different flavor or take on subjects or view on matters that concern us all.

I'm in agreement with some of Ms. Bruce's outlook. She states correctly that there is this dynamic of those at the top of the gay political organizations (especially in this town) that unless one walks their walk, talks their talk, and meets with their oftentimes radical mentality and zealot attitude, you can't be and won't be deemed worthy of having anything of merit to offer.

It's this same double standard being employed here against Arnold, Ms. Bruce, and I'm sure we're going to see and hear more of these sour grapes as time goes on.

I can tell you I stopped attending the gay day parade years ago as have many others for some of the same reasons of discontent we felt because at the end of the parade we'd be subjected to the anarchist, socialist-communist, anti-America lesbian loud mouths spewing their garbage and dribble from their lips on the rest of us, including gay veterans in the audience that fought in Vietnam rightly or wrongly, thus insulting bunch of speakers. The majority of them were totally negative, non-representative of the majority

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and had in fact hijacked the entire parade function to further their own self-serving causes. They certainly weren't representative of the U.S. in general and demonstrated little, if anything, that had to do with building up a community kicked around by the right extreme side of zealots in our country.

I don't like how some things are in our country either folks, but I'll tell you after having visited 63 countries myself, it always feels great flying back to America when I can see the coastline and the lights at night knowing here is indeed the great experiment alive and well with all its troubles the only place I'd want to live in this world.

Paul Graham
San Francisco

Fight against AB205 referendum

In this struggle for full equality, there are victims of discrimination who are presented with a choice – to accept the system, suffer silently and try to move on, or to fight the system, challenge the perpetrators, unmask their bad deeds, and stand for making the world better for the next person in the same situation.

I continue to derive inspiration from Sharon Smith, who did not choose to be a civil rights leader. However, when her partner, Diane Whipple, was killed in the senseless dog mauling case, Sharon took a stand for all GLBT surviving partners and refused to be erased. She withstood the media frenzy with a grace and dignity that truly transformed our society. Instead of retreating into a private shell to deal with her pain, she lobbied for AB25, sued Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel in a civil suit, and won the right to sue for wrongful death in the courts and in the Legislature. She put a face to all GLBT widows and touched and changed the hearts and minds of non-gay people in the process. I ask myself daily, "If Sharon was willing to do all that in the memory of her deceased partner, what am I willing to do to fight for the protection of my wonderful partner (and someday legal wife-to-be) of seven years who is still alive?"

The lives of Ramona Gatto, her partner Arzu and their 15 year-old daughter, Marina Gatto, were similarly thrown into chaos when a homophobic district attorney disclosed confidential information about Ramona's sexual orientation to her ex-husband. Upon receiving this information, her ex-husband waged a custody battle for Marina. Instead of keeping this quiet and dealing with the situation alone, the Gatto family reached out for community support. They took a stand against public officials using their office to harass GLBT families. This week, the Gattos have reached a favorable settlement with San Mateo County and educated our community and the non-gay community about what it really means to be a family. If you haven't had a chance to hear Marina Gatto speak, she is an amazing spokeswoman as a child of lesbian parents.

I urge our community to find inspiration and strength from these role models and to engage in similar acts of courage in our own lives. For example, all hands are now needed on deck to resoundingly defeat state Senator Pete Knight's (R-Palmdale) planned March 2004 ballot measure that attempts to roll back AB205 and the newly minted domestic partnership rights Governor Davis signed into law a few weeks back. This will require spending weekends traveling to rural areas ("road trips") to educate non-gay voters about the reasons domestic partnership rights are so important. This will require volunteering for voter identification canvassing on weeknights. But if this works, and is done collectively by all of us, we together will ensure that there won't have to be future victims of discrimination left without legal remedy for their plight. What a beautiful gift to the world that would be. Eventually, we will win the right for full relationship equality through marriage, but for now, we need to protect the limited rights we are afforded with domestic partnership rights.

Please, I urge each and every person to get involved in this critical grassroots campaign by contacting campaign@EQCA.org or myself at mmckay@marriageequalityca.org. Plug into efforts on the Yes on AB205 – Fairness for California Campaign today. Anything you can give – time, money, ideas – would be welcome. We lost on Proposition 22, we cannot lose on AB205. Let's make 2004 the year of even more not the year of rights no more. (Sorry, once a cheerleader, always a cheerleader ... now READY, OKAY - Let's WIN!)

Molly McKay, Executive Director
Marriage Equality California
San Francisco

'Gays bash back'

Every time you refer to the proposed antigay amendment to the U.S. Constitution as if it's something that really could happen, you help it happen. Plain and simple.

News reports are not actually neutral – you know that. By trying to give some kind of "balanced" argument, you further our oppressors' cause. Stop aiding

the enemy and start ridiculing and denouncing anyone who talks about defiling our precious Constitution. Be patriotic!

I feel like no one is standing up for me – as if all the increasingly bold tyrants who spew hatred toward gays and lesbians are getting away with it. I feel powerless and enraged. Why do we validate these Republican bigots by reacting like wimps, begging for mercy as they kick and kick and kick? I, for one, hereby rip this collective "Kick Me!" sign off my back and issue this important statement to all our opponents, since no one else will:

You may not deny my right to equal treatment under the law. My rights are not up to public vote. All your so-called Defense of Marriage laws are 100 percent invalid and unconstitutional. My man and I are married whether you like it or not. Your grandchildren will look back with shame at your overt bigotry. History will place you alongside those who once drove Jews from their own homes, or who threw rocks and bottles at civil rights movement marchers. You despise peace and people who are different, declaring a "cultural war" you cannot win. I am just one among legions of true patriots who will gladly volunteer and fight to the death against treasonous tyrants who seek to subvert and alter the U.S. Constitution and its guarantees of precious freedom. With liberty and justice for all.

Don't f**k with the fags, Mary! Gays bash back!

Christian Matthews
Pleasant Hill, California

Problems with EVRC redesign

The Committee For Design – Eureka Valley clearly supports the city's Recreation and Park Department's decision to renovate the Eureka Valley Recreation Center at 100 Collingwood Street. However, we are disappointed by the ungraceful, fortress-like exteriors in the proposed design. In fact, the proposed design has been characterized as "harsh" by an Arts Commission official – an opinion with which we are in agreement. Therefore, in addition to the art that is planned to soften the architecture, we seek the following relatively simple changes to the present plans:

- Retaining the existing front steps, planters, and trees.
- Placing the two new meeting rooms above the lobby.
- Raising the teen center three feet higher instead of at the level of the sandbox and the gymnasium.
- Expanding the preschoolers room out to the planter and trees in front.
- Placing a skylight above the existing stair to bring natural light into the lobby.

We continue to request a meeting with the city officials responsible for the EVRC project, which would be open to all stakeholders.

Considering the cost, \$5 million, and that Eureka Valley will live with the results for decades, we believe it is important to listen to the ideas of all members of the community – even those who are late in coming to the table. It is likely that with modifications we can create a community center that will be embraced enthusiastically by the entire Eureka Valley community.

Effie Kuriloff, Chair
Committee For Design
San Francisco

Convenient lab in the Castro

Residents of the Castro may not know it, but we are in jeopardy of losing one of our really important neighborhood resources, the lab at 4200 18th Street, Suite 201, just across the street from Cala Foods. The lab (formerly a satellite of IDL Labs) has been drawing blood and performing routine lab tasks for community residents, particularly those of us with HIV/AIDS, for several years. Now, however, the new owners are considering closing it because they think not enough people use it.

My partner and I have been using this lab for almost 10 years. It is so convenient and they take virtually all insurance plans, Medicare, MediCal, and all HMOs. It sure beats climbing the hill to the old Davies hospital or getting on a bus to reach a lab across town. If you haven't known it was there before (and a lot of people don't, because it's on the second floor), you should give it a try. The technician, Karen Amogawin, is one of the sweetest health care professionals we've ever come across.

They are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day with a half hour off for lunch between 1-1:30 p.m. Let's keep this convenient, valuable resource right here within walking distance. All it will take is for a few more people to use their services. Blood draws are icky enough without having to travel for them.

Randall Kraus
San Francisco

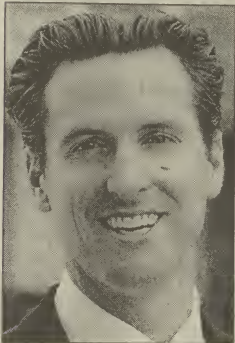
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POLITICS

Newsom for S.F. mayor

by Wayne Friday

After taking an objective look at the key issues facing San Franciscans and affecting the LGBT community, I will proudly cast my vote for Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** for mayor on November 4.



Candidate Gavin Newsom

This year's mayoral election has several committed candidates with distinguished public service records, and as a longtime gay rights activist, nothing would please me more than to see a member of our community become mayor of San Francisco.

So, I have thought long and hard about the candidacies of Treasurer **Susan Leal** and Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** — two fine people. Both Leal and Ammiano have much to offer, but I also asked myself how have they responded in particular to the issue I consider as one of the biggest problems — homelessness. Ammiano has twice voted against Gavin Newsom's Care Not Cash, disregarding the will of nearly 60 percent of San Francisco voters. Ammiano's own homeless plan (Proposition O) was soundly defeated at the polls last year but he's still refusing to listen to what the San Francisco electorate clearly wants, which is something any mayor should do. To Ammiano's credit, he at least offered something on his own.

Leal also refused to respect the will of the voters when she endorsed Supervisor **Chris Daly's** watered down version of Care Not Cash, which the board eventually passed this year. Leal's own proposal for addressing homelessness would tweak the current system, rather than overhaul it.

San Francisco's failed homeless program is broken and needs to be totally revamped, and Leal's plan simply falls short. Two of the other top tier mayoral candidates, former Supervisor **Angela Alioto** and Board of Supervisors President **Matt Gonzalez** are also really fine people. Gonzalez, in my opinion, is one of the brightest lawyer-politicians in town, and he belongs on the bench, not on the Board of Supervisors. As for Alioto — everyone likes her and it's often been said she has the biggest heart in town. But, do we need a Mother Teresa type as our next mayor? You know the answer. I'm never quite sure where Alioto stands on the homeless problem, but a friend of mine likely was pretty close to being correct when he said recently: "You know we've got a homeless problem now? Angela would make them even more

welcome; she'd turn City Hall itself into a homeless center." Probably an exaggeration, but "compassionate liberalism" has its limits, even in San Francisco.

Every time I walk down a street, including and maybe the most important to me — the streets in the Castro, I continue to see people sleeping or passed out on the streets. Merchants and residents alike continually complain about being accosted by aggressive panhandlers, and the problems seem to be getting worse, not better, despite the \$200 million or so this city spends on the homeless each and every year.

Who has a true common sense, proven plan, based on what has worked in other cities, to deal with this tragedy and to improve everyone's quality of life in San Francisco? It's Gavin Newsom. Why does San Francisco have more homeless deaths than New York or Chicago, cities that have a much larger population? Clearly, the answer is because our current failed policies enable these people to die on the streets, too often from alcohol or drug overdoses. Enabling people to die on the street in this city is certainly not an act of compassion.

Do candidates Ammiano, Leal, Alioto, or Gonzalez have workable plans to change this unacceptable situation? No. Newsom offers such plans. Indeed, Newsom's leadership on the homeless issue in particular has been courageous and exemplary, all but shaming his political opponents. Our economy is in very bad shape. This really affects gays and lesbians, perhaps even more than the rest of the population. This year the Castro is seeing its first recession with businesses closing in record numbers. Cities like ours are where gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders are most safe to be ourselves and live the lives we choose, and San Francisco is by far the best city of all for the LGBT community. It is in San Francisco that we can openly and freely participate fully in the city's political, cultural and social life, and contribute to the many nonprofits helping our community.

However, it is news to no one that this is also a very expensive city. If we, as members of the LGBT community, choose to stay and live here and not move to less welcoming places, we need good jobs that offer health and retirement benefits, jobs that enable us to pay the rent or mortgage, or to save for a down payment on a condo or a house. Like other San Franciscans, the LGBT community needs good jobs and decent housing so that we can one day retire here where we can have our friends and our important support network. Hell, not everyone wants to spend their golden years



San Francisco Police Inspectors Pat Correa, left, and Lea Militello received the Pride Award from the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club at its annual awards reception October 15 at the LGBT Community Center. Correa and Militello were both stabbed in August while investigating a shooting case that led them to the suspect's home in Daly City. Both are recovering from their injuries.

in Palm Springs; at least, I don't. I ask you — does anyone really think that Ammiano, Alioto, or Gonzalez truly have what it takes to turn San Francisco's economy around, or to handle the still-growing homeless problem? Leal at least offers some good ideas and has solid business experience, but both pale to that of Newsom. Newsom has a proven track record for creating successful businesses; for a man of his young age, it's almost uncanny the talent the man has shown. Newsom knows how to market San Francisco to prospective employers. Of all the mayoral candidates, it is Newsom's economic plan that stands out as being the most comprehensive.

This city is at a turning point — San Francisco needs a person with new ideas and strong leadership as its next mayor. Gavin Newsom offers that kind of leadership and I urge you to join me in voting to elect him mayor on Tuesday, November 4.

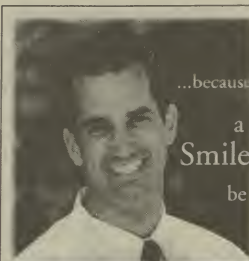
Politics and people

The *San Francisco Chronicle* on Sunday, saying in an editorial that "the district attorney's office can no longer afford to be run as a circus sideshow," endorsed **Kamala Harris**, one of the brightest young attorneys around, for district attorney to replace the two-term incumbent **Terence Hallinan** who has brought the office the lowest conviction rate for serious crimes of any D.A.'s office in the state. Harris has something else going for her that surely should appeal to the LGBT community — a thoughtful mailer that features the endorsements of both Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco) and former Supervisor **Harry Britt**.

And speaking of campaign literature, who is doing mayoral candidate Matt Gonzalez's mailers? Touting the endorsements of Supervisor **Chris Daly** and Public Defender **Jeff Adachi** makes sense, but featuring a photo of **Medea Benjamin**? Oh, sure, Matt, that one will win you a ton of votes (in Berkeley, maybe).

Incidentally, those City Hall types who keep tabs on such ru-

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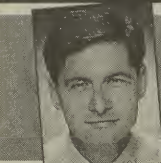
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Marriage uncoupled

by Paula Martinac

Recently, President Bush signed a proclamation declaring that "marriage is a sacred institution" – a statement that implies there's only one meaning of marriage, as a religious rite. In fact, there are two distinct forms of marriage: the sacred ceremony overseen by various religious denominations, and the secular contract controlled by the states. The fact that politicians and religious leaders inappropriately meld the two is one of the biggest obstacles the gay community faces in its push for civil marriage rights.

Although we're supposed to enjoy separation of church and state in this country, somewhere in our past the states decided to permit a shortcut for couples desiring a religious blessing for their legal union. As a result, clergy members have long been permitted to act as officiants of the state and perform legal marriages, although, technically, the words "By the power vested in me by the state of..." should never be in any cleric's mouth.

There's no question that the bonding of religious and civil marriage is more convenient for straight couples desiring a church ceremony; in many other countries, they would first have to be wed legally by a public official before their union could be blessed in a second ceremony by an official of a religious denomination. Despite its efficiency, the "coupling" of religious and civil marriage was a mistake that nibbles at the boundaries of church and state.

And it's a mistake for which same-sex couples pay the price. Because of it, many straight Americans are confused about what same-sex marriage rights actually mean. The antigay marriage activists have literally put the fear of God into the minds of many religious folks, who fret that same-sex marriage rights would suddenly require priests, ministers, rabbis, and other religious officials to perform marriages that their beliefs oppose.

Consider, for example, that the movement behind the antigay Federal Marriage Amendment has been seeking the support of African American communities by engaging the help of prominent black ministers. For many blacks, religion is central – churches provide not only emotional sustenance in African American cultures, but needed social services as well. It's no surprise that, although in polls African Americans show significant support for gay civil rights, they over-



Christine Smith

whelmingly oppose gay marriage.

But, in fact, the granting of civil marriage rights to same-sex couples wouldn't affect religious marriage at all. The same government that's supposed to ensure the separation of church and state is also bound to ensure religious liberty. Religious denominations have long been free to discriminate based on their beliefs, which means they're also free to set their own rules about marriage. So, for example, while a justice of the peace couldn't refuse to marry a couple because one of the two is divorced, a

Roman Catholic priest could and would. And he most certainly could refuse to marry a gay couple. By the same token, religious denominations would also be free to perform gay unions, if they chose to – as a small number now do.

Of course, much of the misinformation people have about same-sex marriage rights stems from the many politically powerful clergy who believe it's their moral duty – and God-given right – to actively work for the passage of discriminatory antigay laws or the rescinding of pro-gay ones. And I don't just mean the Christian Right. The pope saw fit this past summer to completely disregard the separation of church and state and direct American Catholic politicians to oppose same-sex marriage rights. To his credit, Democratic presidential hopeful Senator John Kerry (Massachusetts), a Catholic who does not at this time support same-sex marriage, publicly rebuked the pope for this flagrant

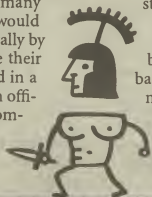
crossing of church-and-state boundaries. As a movement, we must urge other politicians to stand up to pressure from religious leaders who inappropriately try to instruct them how to vote.

Also, gay people and their allies who regularly attend religious services could lobby gay-supportive clergy members to follow the example of the few bold Unitarian Universalist clerics attempting to uncouple religious and civil marriage. These ministers – both straight and gay – have announced that they will perform religious ceremonies, but not sign legal marriage licenses, until gay couples are afforded equal marriage rights. Couples who choose to be wed by these clergy members will have to visit a justice of the peace to have their legal license signed.

Finally, gay people can discuss with our straight peers what the extension of civil marriage rights to same-sex couples actually means. To develop your own talking points, visit the Web sites of the Alliance for Same-Sex Marriage (www.allianceforsamesexmarriage.org) and the Interfaith Working Group (www.iwgonline.org). We can actively work to get across the message that achieving same-sex marriage rights won't diminish freedom of religion, but instead afford lesbian and gay partners the same basic civil rights that other Americans enjoy. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

Lesbian Notions



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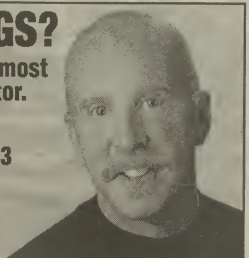
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Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

mors tell me that sparks are flying between the Ammiano, Gonzalez, and Alioto camps, particularly between those supporting Ammiano and Alioto. Tut, tut.

And those gay activists bristling at Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger naming the controversial lesbian author and talk show host Tammy Bruce to his transition team might take some consolation in knowing that Representative David Dreier (R-

San Dimas), who some of my gay Republican friends claim is "very reasonable" on gay issues, is the head of the transition team. Congressman Dreier? I'm told he's a very interesting Republican, albeit it one with a very conservative voting record.

Schwarzenegger, of course, didn't ask, but if he had I would have suggested someone like San Francisco's own Chris Bowman, one of the best guys I know (both proudly gay and proudly Republican) to his transition camp.

Child actor-turned-security person-turned-gubernatorial can-

didate Gary Coleman, 35, has a new gig – as a political analyst on the All Comedy Radio Network. Coleman finished eighth out of 135 candidates vying to replace Governor Davis earlier this month.

Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden held a coffee meet-and-greet at 18th & Castro Streets last Saturday to gather signatures for her run for the state Senate seat (District 3) being vacated by term-out John Burton. Migden, a proven votegetter and prolific political

next page ▶

HISTORY LESSON

What is the history of the NGLTF?

by Liz Highleyman

October 1973 (30 years ago this month): The National Gay Task Force forms in New York City.

The history of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, one of the oldest extant LGBT rights organizations, reflects the shifting political fortunes of the community as the larger political climate has cycled from conservative to liberal and back again.

NGLTF was founded as the National Gay Task Force in New York City in October 1973 by a group of gay men including Howard Brown, Ron Gold, Nathan Rockhill, and Bruce Voeller. The latter three had been involved with the Gay Activists Alliance, one of the groups that sprang up in the wake of the June 1969 Stonewall riots.

Over the years, the task force has played a role in most of the LGBT community's important struggles. In its earliest years, the organization worked to change the American Psychiatric Association's classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder, successfully pressured the U.S. Civil Service Commission to rescind its ban on gay employees, and helped introduce the first legislation to make sexual orientation a protected class (that bill never passed, but the effort continues with ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act). In 1977, task force co-directors Voeller and Jean O'Leary were among the first LGBT leaders to discuss queer issues with White House staff.

Under director Virginia Apuzzo, the task force found another void to fill: combating antigay violence and the burgeoning AIDS epidemic. In 1982, it started its Anti-Violence Project — which helped local groups fight antigay hate crimes and conducted the first national survey of homophobic violence — and established the first national crisis hotline. The task force helped launch two national AIDS advocacy coalitions and secured the first federal funding for community-based AIDS groups, while also supporting more militant activism by groups such as ACT UP.

In 1985, with Jeff Levi at the helm, the task force moved its headquarters to Washington, D.C., and changed its name to the

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. After the Supreme Court's 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* ruling, NGLTF launched its Privacy Project, which targeted sodomy laws nationwide. The task force helped organize the October 1987 March on Washington, and its members were among the 700 LGBT leaders arrested in a mass civil disobedience action at the Supreme Court.

As the 1980s drew to a close, new director Urvashi Vaid focused on strengthening local organizations. "We've got to march from Washington into action at home," Vaid said in a speech at the 1993 March on Washington. "We have got to match the power of the Christian supremacists, member for member, vote for vote, dollar for dollar."

The task force advanced its movement-building work through its annual Creating Change conference (began in 1988), which serves as the premier networking and skills-building venue for progressive queer activists, and its Policy Institute (started in 1995), the movement's think tank.

Even as the LGBT movement exploded during a period of resurgent queer activism and unprecedented national attention to gay issues, NGLTF floundered during the early 1990s. Three directors came and went in as many years, the organization's staff and budget shrank by half, and several key projects were ended. The task force turned a corner under the leadership of Kerry Lobel, who was appointed in 1996 and continued the organization's focus on local activism. In March 1999, NGLTF helped organize Equality Begins at Home, a series of coordinated demonstrations and lobby days in all 50 states. Lobel was also known for her politics of inclusion; in 1997, NGLTF changed its mission statement to include bisexual and transgender people. In April 2003, the task force selected Matt Foreman, its first male director in more than a decade.

Throughout the years, NGLTF has been at the center of a variety of controversies. The issue prompting the most debate has been whether to focus solely on gay-specific issues (such as military exclusion and same-sex marriage) or to embrace a multi-issue progressive agenda (including, for example, affirmative action, reproductive rights, and welfare reform).

NGLTF's mission statement defines the organization as "part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice, and equality." In that vein, in December 2002, the task force joined a coalition opposing the impending U.S. war in Iraq. This past summer, it played a visible role in the 40th anniversary commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 March on Washington for civil rights.

As the national political climate has grown more conservative and the LGBT movement more mainstream, some critics charge that the task force is out of touch. "The screeching, dogmatic leftoids who long dominated American gay public discourse are not merely in retreat, they have become mostly irrelevant," wrote gay journalist Rex Wockner in 2002. "The vast majority of gays and lesbians these days have little in common with the dogma of NGLTF and movement wonks of that ilk."

Despite such criticism, NGLTF proudly remains one of the last significant remnants of the gay liberation movement of the post-Stonewall years. It continues to serve, in the words of gay historian John D'Emilio, as "the queer voice of the progressive movement and the progressive voice of the queer movement." ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@black-rose.com.

Suggested reading

D'Emilio, John. 2002. "Organizational Tales: Interpreting the NGLTF Story." In *The World Turned: Essays on Gay History, Politics, and Culture* (Duke University Press).

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. 2003. "Three Decades of Fighting for Freedom, Justice & Equality." www.nglftf.org/about/highlights.htm.

Vaid, Urvashi. 1995. *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation* (Anchor).

needed retirement benefits for public safety employees at no added cost to taxpayers. Vote yes on Proposition B. Proposition H would give the Board of Supervisors control and politicize the Police Commission. Vote no on Proposition H.

And congrats to Casper, Wyoming City Council member Guy Padgett, 24, who came out of the closet during a recent *Time* magazine interview, saying it was done to honor the memory of murdered student Matthew Shepard in Laramie five years ago. I mean, a gay council member in Casper, Wyoming? Appropriately, the article was entitled "The New Face of Gay Power."

And how was your week? ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

fundraiser, was surrounded by three straight male supes — Jake McGoldrick, Chris Daly, and Aaron Peskin, but there was a noticeable absence of any gay, lesbian or women elected officials.

Incidentally, the newly-announced state Senate candidate (Migden) was spotted Monday having lunch at Harvey's in the Castro with one of my favorite people, hotshot political consultant Jack Davis (oh, to have been a fly on that wall).

Two particular county propositions to note for November 4 — Proposition B provides badly

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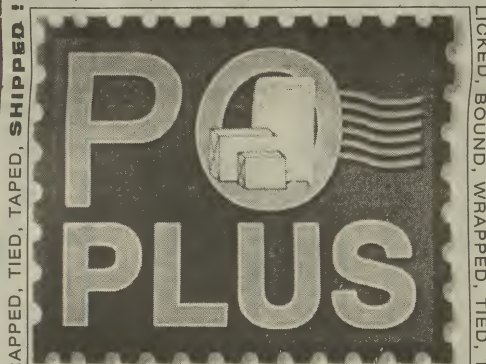
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No laughing matter

by Jane Warner

4 500 block of 19th Street, October 18, 11:40 p.m.: A man invited another man to his house to watch TV. After a while, the man asked his guest if he wanted to go to his bedroom to see the city view from his window. As they stood in front of the window, the man suddenly grabbed his acquaintance from behind and started to grope his genitals, stating that he wanted to have sex with him. The victim declined but the man insisted and demanded he take his clothes off. Laughing, the victim thought the man was only joking, and started to walk out of the bedroom, but the suspect grabbed him and threw him down on the bed, pinning him underneath his body. Fearing for

his life, the victim tried to push the suspect off, but he was much larger and stronger. The assailant then grabbed a bottle of lubricant and threatened, "If you scream or cry, I'll hit you." He then sexually assaulted him. When the assault was over, the victim, 18, ran out of the house and telephoned his aunt, who notified the police. Officers responded to the suspect's house and knocked on the door. The suspect answered the door and when questioned, said, "He told me he was 18 and I believed him. Besides, he wanted me to do it." The 44-year-old suspect was taken to Mission Station and booked for sexual battery and

forced penetration with an object.

Minor threat

2000 block of Market Street, October 19, 3:00 p.m.: While processing prints, an employee for a photo lab on Market Street became alarmed when photos she was developing showed sexually explicit images of a young girl who appeared to be about 9 years old. Most of the photos showed the girl in various states of undress. There was also a photo of the same girl with another young girl standing next to a group of three men. The owner of the photo lab called police, as the suspect was scheduled to retrieve his prints

within the next hour. Officers responded to the store and waited for the suspect to arrive, but he never showed. The explicit photographs were confiscated and forwarded to the juvenile division for further investigation.

Kid in a candy store

400 block of Noe, October 19, 9:30 a.m.: While house sitting for a friend on vacation, a man invited an acquaintance over to spend the night. During the course of the evening, he noticed some money missing from his wallet. When he confronted his invited guest, the guest admitted the theft, apologized, and gave back the cash. Thinking nothing more of it, the man fell asleep. When he woke up the next morning, however, his acquaintance was gone and his friend's Nissan Pathfinder was no

longer in the garage.

Responding officers telephoned the victim in Florida and asked if he wanted to press charges for the theft of the SUV. The victim indicated he did, but also cautioned officers to check on a loaded firearm he kept in his bedroom. When officers checked, they discovered the gun was missing as well.

The 22-year-old suspect is described as a white male, 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing 140 pounds, with blue eyes and light colored spiked hair. He has tattoos on both arms and the back of his neck and a pierced left nipple. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.

Grisly murder

◀ page 1

ward and there's evidence in front of me that you admitted killing Mr. Ober," Busch said. "It is the order of this court that you be held for trial."

Busch ordered McKinnon to appear in court on October 30 to set a trial date.

Friend grew uneasy

Henry said that she ran into McKinnon on a few occasions between the time he first told her Ober had won the cruise and when police discovered his re-

mains. Over the course of a couple of weeks, Henry said that McKinnon would barely open the apartment door when she knocked on the door to inquire when Ober would be returning. He also told her that there were no phones in any of the ports so Ober could not be contacted while supposedly on the cruise.

But signs were apparent that something was odd at Ober's apartment, she said during questioning from Assistant District Attorney Elliot Beckelman. Henry said that an odor from Ober's apartment became increasingly strong, eventually coming into the bathroom of her own apartment

through the pipes.

And there were the flies. "There were thousands of flies. It got so bad that I had to start spraying. The flies were laying on his [Ober's] wall where his bathroom was," Henry testified.

Henry, who had been friends with Ober for years, told the court that they were close neighbors who would look after each other's apartments when the other was on vacation. When McKinnon told her Ober had won the cruise, she was surprised, because normally, Ober would have her look after his place.

On cross-examination, Henry told McKinnon's defense attorney,

Greg Feldman, that she never saw the two men together.

According to police, Ober met McKinnon at the Pendulum bar in the Castro.

Feldman tried to get Henry to acknowledge that she had told police that Ober could get violent, especially after he had been drinking. But Henry was adamant that she told inspectors that Ober would get "obnoxious" after drinking.

"He would not get violent," Henry said.

Police evidence

San Francisco Police Inspector David Suyehiro testified that he arrived on the scene after the body had been discovered. He told the court that there was "multigenerational" evidence of fly larvae and casings on the walls and floor of the bathroom, suggesting the body had been in the bathtub for some time.

Suyehiro also walked into the bedroom.

weeks from the time of death to the discovery of the body, or maybe longer. "The body was nearly skeletal."

There was so much decomposition, Stephens testified, that larvae were found inside the body itself.

Questioned by Feldman about other rib injuries to Ober, Stephens acknowledged that they could have predated the fatal injuries, but not by very much time.

"They didn't pre-exist very long," Stephens said.

Stephens said that it was possible that Ober's body was moved to the bathtub; but there were "no clear markers" that the body was moved.

He also noted that Ober's body had been covered with baking soda in an apparent effort to reduce the odor.

Reporter questioned

Walsh, who writes regularly for the B.A.R., was subpoenaed by the prosecution to testify about the

"The were thousands of flies ... laying on his [Ober's] wall where his bathroom was."

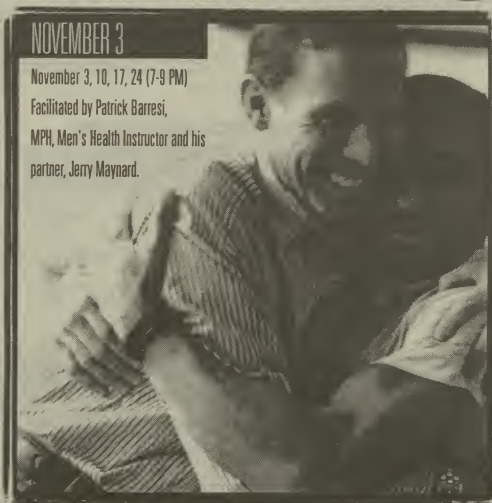
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Ambassador Hotel reopens to better future

by Zak Szymanski

San Francisco's longtime AIDS activists and volunteers from the 1980s and 1990s may remember the Ambassador Hotel, the Tenderloin's once run-down single room occupancy structure whose neglected tenants became the target of organized outreach efforts.

Nearly abandoned by the end of the century, the building was bought by the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation in 1999, and yesterday (Wednesday, October 22), the newly refurbished Ambassador reopened to provide housing and supportive services to more than 130 people.

"It's a miracle in the Tenderloin. When I volunteered there it was a dump. During the 1980s and 1990s the Ambassador was a battered refuge for poor people with AIDS," said Friar John Hardin of the St. Anthony Foundation.

Hardin added that AIDS activist Hank Wilson, the hotel's former manager, tried to make the place better without any help from the hotel's former owners. In 1994, KRON-TV aired a one-hour documentary on the hotel's sorry state called *Life and Death at the Ambassador*. Wilson retired from the hotel for health reasons in 1995, and by 1999, the hotel had deteriorated so much that most of



The Ambassador Hotel reopened Wednesday.

the residents had moved out.

"There were very few tenants left at that point," said Terry Sellards, TNDC's communications director. "They, and others in the community approached us, because of what we are. It's been an extremely complicated project to finance and to build, but we've done it."

Sellards said that construction costs for the project totaled \$10.8 million. The project involved a mixture of public and private funding, he explained, including federal money, funds from the Mayor's Office of Housing, and private loans.

TNDC owns 21 buildings that provide safe, affordable homes with supportive services to about 3,000 extremely low-income people.

The Ambassador's rooms are already nearly spoken for, with at least 50 percent of its residents having some combination of HIV/AIDS, homelessness, or mental disabilities. Most of the 134 residents receive some kind of rental subsidy. The process by which the hotel is filled is "dictated by the lenders," according to Sellards, "and we have to go to the community and conduct an extremely fair process to fill the rooms."

The Ambassador's grand reopening took place on Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its location on Mason and Eddy streets. In collaboration with the new ownership, the nonprofit organizations Baker Places and Conard House will provide the resident's specialized services on-site. ▼

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On page 14 of your Voter Information Pamphlet for the November 4, 2003 Election, a symbol appears below my name indicating that I have voluntarily agreed to limit my campaign spending in the District Attorney's race.

This is incorrect. I have not voluntarily agreed to limit my campaign spending.

Due to errors by my campaign, I failed to file a form on a timely basis with the Ethics Commission stating that I do not accept the campaign expenditure ceiling and also failed to file forms with the Ethics Commission within 24 hours of receiving contributions and making expenditures which exceed the ceiling. These errors led to the symbol incorrectly appearing in the Voter Information Pamphlet.

I take full responsibility for all actions of my campaign, and apologize to the voters of San Francisco for the confusion which these errors have caused.

Sincerely,

Kamala Harris, Candidate for District Attorney

Paid for by Kamala Harris for District Attorney, 325 Highland St, San Francisco, CA 94110
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SF library, chorus set to mark Nov. 1978

by Cynthia Laird

November 1978 was a tragic month in San Francisco's history. On November 18, more than 900 members of the People's Temple died in Jonestown, Guyana. Days later, on November 27, disgruntled ex-Supervisor Dan White shot and killed Mayor George Moscone and the city's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk.

Starting this Saturday, October 25 and continuing through January, the San Francisco Public Library has several exhibits open to the public that look at these momentous events that helped shape the city's history and left an indelible scar marking the end of the turbulent 1970s.

A press preview was offered last week and featured members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, who sang a couple of songs on the fourth floor near an exhibit about the group. It was the night of Milk's murder that saw the first-ever public appearance by the chorus when members performed on the steps of City Hall.

The chorus celebrates its 25th anniversary next month, with a concert at Davies Symphony Hall on Monday, November 17. Entitled "Closer Than Ever," the performance will feature special guests Armistead Maupin and Sharon McNight.

At the main library, visitors can see an exhibition of photographs, posters, programs, newspaper clippings, and other memorabilia

from the chorus' archives. The exhibit is located in the Steve Silver Beach Blanket Babylon Room on the fourth floor of the main library.

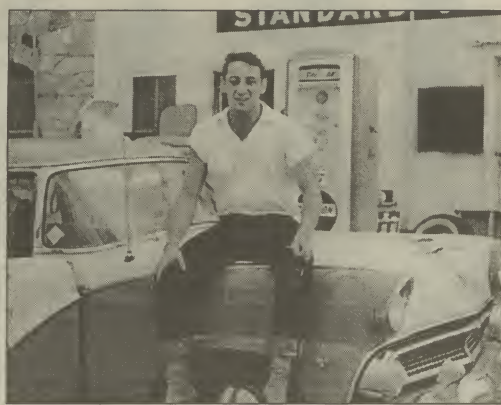
Kathleen McGuire, now in her fourth year of conducting the chorus, said that the group has a busy fall schedule. The chorus is performing later this month in Palm Springs, then has the 25th anniversary concert.

On November 27, which falls on Thanksgiving this year, the chorus will perform on the steps of City Hall at 1 p.m. in a reenactment of its 1978 debut. The chorus will sing the same beautiful Mendelssohn hymn it sang 25 years ago, McGuire said, adding that she has commissioned a special piece for the commemoration based on Milk's famous "Hope" speech, with music by Libby Larsen and lyrics by Adam Sandel, who's also a contributing writer to the *Bay Area Reporter*. Dick Kramer, the chorus' first appointed conductor, has also been invited to lead the chorus in a couple of pieces during the commemoration.

McGuire said she welcomes interested people to take part in planning meetings for the November 27 event. A meeting will be held today (Thursday, October 23) at noon in the SFGMC's office, 4053 18th Street, at Hartford. A second meeting has been set for November 19 at noon at the chorus office.

Milk exhibits

The James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, on the third floor



Harvey Milk on a Ford Crown Victoria in Texas in 1957.

of the main library, is unveiling rare photographs, memorabilia, and correspondence from its archives that explores the personal life of Milk. Center director Jim Van Buskirk said the aim of the exhibit is to "show more of the man behind the politician." The exhibit officially opens this Saturday, October 25 and continues through January 7, 2004. The library is located at 100 Larkin Street, at Grove.

Related events to the exhibit include a showing and discussion of the film *November 1978* on November 19 at 6 p.m. in the main library's Koret Auditorium.

The Eureka Valley Harvey Milk Memorial branch library in the Castro will also have photographs

and artifacts from the Harvey Milk Archives-Scott Smith Collection on exhibit beginning on November 8 and continuing through January 8. The branch library is located at 3555 16th Street, near Market.

"Our hope for the exhibition is to give people an opportunity to see Milk's pride and personal fondness for the Castro commu-

Magnet event

◀ page 3

that many people would rather forget exists," said Roe. "From a health standpoint, there are many reasons to have an intimate knowledge of your butt. If we are not comfortable talking about, and touching our butts, we will be less able to address" important health issues.

The whole concept of Take Back the Butt Month stems from Magnet officials' observations during last year's Castro Street Fair. At the time the center's supporters were handing out balloons printed with the words top, versatile, or bottom. The least requested balloon turned out to be the one with bottom written on it.

"People were happy to take the top and versatile balloons but not the bottom balloons. That is where the idea came from to promote knowing your body," explained Magnet Executive Director Steve Gibson. "It is a bit tongue-in-cheek, certainly."

Yet while gay men "go there a lot" during sex, Gibson said that "isn't the same as being comfortable with your ass."

So to address this anal apprehension the butt project was born.

"What better way to talk about the butt?" said Gibson.

Helping in the health center's butt project are such exhibitionists as District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Mission Station Sergeant Chuck Limbert, Empress Chablis, and porn stars Michael Brandon and Will Clark, who all exposed their derrières for the project. Tom Orr, the creator of the show *Dirty Little Showtunes*, was one of the first people to sign up to help in the butt education efforts.

When focusing on fannies, you need to "do it in a humorous fashion to break down some of the resistance some people have to butts," said Orr, who penned a butt plug, well rather a song, he will be singing during the Halloween bash in the Castro next weekend to conclude the month of butts.

Dufty said he threw modesty to the wind in an effort to help Magnet reach out to more men in the

nity," said Karen Sundheim, branch manager.

The branch also invites the public to join in sharing their thoughts and memories of Milk with Susan Stryker, executive director of the GLBT Historical Society, at a branch reception and open house on November 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (415) 355-5616.

The San Francisco History Center, on the sixth floor of the main library, will also have related exhibits. The history center will incorporate materials from the California Historical Society as well as from its own collection for "November 1978: Moscone, Milk, and Jonestown." The items will be in display cases on the sixth floor from November 8 through January 8. ▼

All programs at the library are free and open to the public. Tickets to the Gay Men's Chorus November 17 concert range from \$10-\$50 and can be purchased by visiting www.sfgmc.org or by calling (415) 865-3650. The chorus' Thanksgiving commemoration performance is free.

community who may not realize the health clinic is there for them. The center has only been open four months and is still trying to spread the word about its programs.

Last weekend, Dufty brought in members of the Frontrunners to see his butt print, as well as to check out the center.

"You can tell something fun is going on inside. But some men tell me, 'We are not sure if we should be inside participating.' I think the element people don't know is it is for them," said Dufty.

As for his print, Dufty said his running friends "were more impressed with Michael Brandon's butt and his 'monster.' I felt there was cheating involved. I thought it was about my butt and not about the package."

Those who were asked but declined access to their ass included state Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and British comic and television host Graham Norton. Norton, who was in town performing a one-man show, announced during his opening night that Roe had delivered an invite for the comedian to take part in the butt project.

"He didn't accept the invitation, we don't know why," said Gibson, puzzled that a man known for his outrageous stunts and gags wouldn't find time to lend a helping, umm, cheek.

Other visitors to town were more willing to offer up their behinds in the name of sexual health. Among the Wall of Butts are hines hailing from Alaska, New York, Japan, and Southern California.

"The men from out of town were really excited because they said, 'We just don't do this where we are from,'" said Roe.

Whether locale will impact the Rorschach readings remains to be seen.

But in just looking at the prints of men's backsides, which range in age from early 20s to late 70s, Roe said they do reveal that not all gay men come in the buff package sold by the media.

"It is wonderful to see the different shapes of gay men there are. Some media would have us believe

page 19 ►

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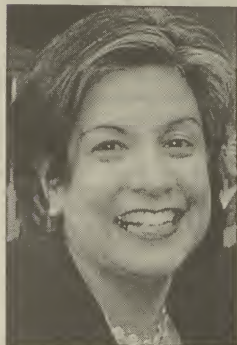
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mayoral race

◀ page 1

revenues (above 5 percent compared to the prior year) be deposited into savings, ending "the boom and bust cycle" of economic policy.



Candidate Susan Leal

Libertarian Michael Denny proposes that the more government stays out of a free economy, the better.

"Freedom works miracles – personally and economically," said Denny, a strong opponent of imposed business mandates such as the minimum wage, which he said actually led to the loss of jobs. "This campaign is dedicated to restoring that freedom."

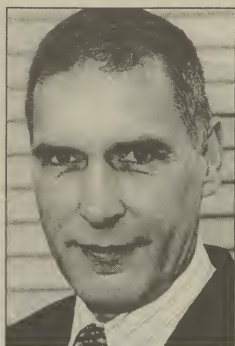
Green Party candidate and Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez said that shrinking the size of city government and bureaucracy would enable efficiency in spending and planning. His business proposals would concentrate on local growth and incentives for employers to pay their staff well and remain in the city.

City Treasurer Susan Leal has made economic policy a centerpiece of her campaign, and rightfully so: as treasurer, she is credited with increasing the city's return on investments despite the shaky climate. Leal's platform includes streamlining government and creating a "one stop shopping" government portal for permits and grants, to make it easier to do business with San Francisco. She also proposes investing in city residents, aggressively marketing San Francisco's strengths, creating business tax incentives, and implementing long-term planning for responsible spending.

Supervisor Gavin Newsom, himself an entrepreneur, has called small businesses the key to growing San Francisco's economy. His platform centers around offering incentives and exceptions to small businesses, simplifying the permit process, and making it easier for minorities, women, and local businesses to get contracts. He proposes quicker growth and faster completion of office and agency projects already in the works.

Republican Tony Ribera said he plans to cut government spending, increase agency accountability, and make San Francisco an easier place to do business. He supports developing untapped areas, but opposes "Manhattanizing" San Francisco. Key to his overall approach, he said, is bringing together labor and business to work on a comprehensive economic stimulus plan.

Jim Reid, whose own campaign has focused on public transportation and homelessness, has emphasized that the development of the Hunters Point Shipyard could reinvigorate San Francisco's economy. Many of Reid's plans call for new zoning and business laws, which he sees as minor in-



Candidate Jim Reid

conveniences that residents would be willing to pass for the sake of an improved city.

Roger Schulke proposes eliminating, reducing, or combining governmental departments in order to cut costs and ensure efficiency. His focus is on business and tourism – two vital pieces of what he calls the "three pillars of San Francisco" (the third is the city's people). He wants San Francisco to be more tourist and business friendly, and in turn, expects such a climate to pay off for its residents.



Candidate Roger Schulke

"The businesses of San Francisco need to operate with reasonable regulations," said Schulke, "free of city interference."

Business, revenue, jobs

As more businesses left the city, more residents found themselves out of a job. Less income generated meant less tax money to fund city programs.

Mayoral candidates have different ideas on how to encourage business growth and simultaneously make the city workable and livable for its residents.

Candidates like Alioto, Ammiano, and Gonzalez have said that aiding businesses cannot come without ensuring that businesses pay their fair share to city programs and residents, although they emphasize that with a streamlined government and greater efficiency, any business taxes would be spent better than they have been in the past. Leal and Newsom have gone on record as hesitant to add any new business taxes.

However, Ammiano has expressed a willingness to revisit the payroll tax, saying that he sees "an inherent unfairness," while Gonzalez has proposed eliminating it altogether.

"I think with the payroll tax there's a sense it punishes businesses. It's kind of a discouragement to having businesses locate here, particularly businesses that are going to be employee-heavy," Gonzalez told the *San Francisco Business Times*, adding that he favors a business tax based instead upon gross receipts.

Specific business and jobs stimulus ideas include, for Newsom, a

16-point plan "that will foster an environment where small businesses can flourish," he said. Newsom's plan calls for contract reform to eliminate bundling and uncompetitive bidding; reinstating the "New Jobs Tax Credit" for companies that create new permanent jobs; appointing small business leaders to city commissions; and supporting organizations "that specifically assist businesses in disadvantaged communities."

In addition to streamlining the process for businesses, Leal proposes a "San Francisco Opportunity Fund" that offers low-interest micro-enterprise loans, grants for neighborhood improvement projects, and business incubators. She also wants to revamp the mayor's Office of Economic Development to support local and neighborhood small businesses. And she calls for speeding up the process of hiring for capital improvement projects like the Third Street light rail.

Reid's New Orleans-style vision for developing Hunter's Point includes a "floating red light district" in the bay that would regulate prostitution, eliminating safety risks and increasing tax revenues for the city. The shipyard itself would become a land trust and developed into an artists' community.

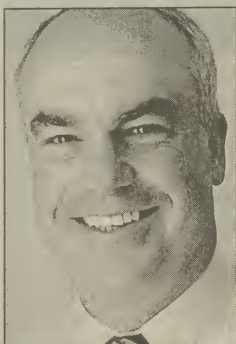
Ammiano favors the revitalization of commercial corridors, hooking businesses up with banks and nonprofits, and directing the city's Redevelopment Agency to focus on smaller scale blight problems in neighborhood commercial districts.

Ribera would like to attract more professionals from the film industry by providing companies free off-site parking for vehicles, reducing overhead costs for city employees and facilities, and expediting permits and licensing.

More business theoretically means more people who are employed, but in a city that still carries a high cost of living, many of the candidates support protections for workers in the form of higher wages.

Candidate Denny disagrees, however, stating that in order for the economy to thrive, there must be workers of all income levels.

"Nobel-winning economists have repeatedly shown that a min-



Candidate Michael Denny

Mayoral candidates' Web sites

Want to know where a San Francisco mayoral candidate stands on the issues? Many of the nine candidates for mayor have comprehensive Web sites that include position papers on a variety of issues, background information, and lists of supporters. Following are the Web sites:

Angela Alioto: www.angela4mayor.com

Tom Ammiano: www.ammianoformayor.com

Michael Denny: www.michaeldenny.net

Matt Gonzalez: www.mattgonzalez.com

Susan Leal: www.susanleal.com

Gavin Newsom: www.gavinnewsom.com

Jim Reid: www.sfmayor.com

Tony Ribera: www.tonyribera4mayor.com

Roger Schulke: www.rogerformayor.com

imum wage makes less-skilled workers unemployable. They can offer an employer less value than the law requires they be paid; as a result, they are denied the chance to learn new skills that would broaden their opportunities," said Denny. "The best thing government can do for the poor is to stop making their employment illegal."

More workers would theoretically also mean more people willing to spend their money. Alioto would like to stimulate this by easing parking restrictions to encourage people to stop – and

shop. Leal and Ammiano propose investing in the city's assets like the arts and sports, to attract shoppers, spectators, and visitors.

No matter who is elected in November, San Francisco's next mayor will take the reigns of a city that has a budget deficit of more than \$100 million, an unemployment rate of roughly 6 percent, and an office vacancy rate of more than 20 percent. Visit the individual candidate's Web sites for more information on specific solutions, and to download their comprehensive plans. ▼



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Halloween

◀ page 1

working to make Halloween safer warn there will most likely be problems this year as revelers experience the new rules for the first time.

"I don't expect it to be like Disney World. There are going to be problems," said District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who was elected to office last fall and has made revamping the Halloween event one of his top priorities. "This is a work in progress."

Dufty, who will once again take to the streets to observe first hand the goings-on next Friday, said his aim is to turn the annual party from one people in the Castro dread to one hailed around the world as a fun and safe place for gay tourists to observe the Halloween holiday.

"In future years we will make San Francisco a destination not only for people in Fremont or Concord but for gay people from Sydney or Dublin," said Dufty.

The evening will begin with the March of Light procession, a Day of the Dead parade that will snake up Castro and down Market Street around 7 p.m. Entertainment at four stages scattered around the neighborhood will begin shortly thereafter.

At midnight, the start of the witching hour, the event will be shut down. Police will begin instructing everyone to vacate the streets while promoters direct revelers to after-hours parties at various venues throughout the city. BART is running trains until 1 a.m. to help East Bay residents return home.

All this, party planners stress, is meant to make the event attrac-

tive again to the people who call the Castro home, and who have avoided the street festival due to problems with violence in years past. Unlike the Pink Party or Castro Street Fair, which bring in multitudes of people to the neighborhood with little problems, Halloween has become a truly frightening night for residents and LGBT visitors to the Castro, who reported last year several gay bashings and problems with drunken revelers.

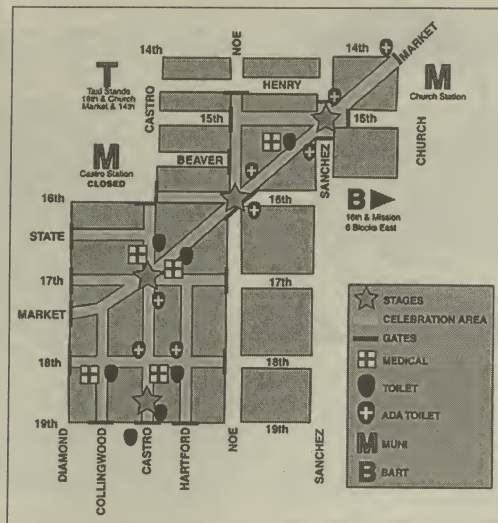
While dozens of people have worked to make this year's celebration a safer event, it remains to be seen if the public, specifically the LGBT community, will return to the Castro. An unsentimental poll taken last week on SFgate.com, the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Web site, found that 75 percent of the nearly 450 respondents plan to skip the Castro Halloween bash, saying it is too crowded and full of gawkers. Another 14 percent said they didn't plan on going out Friday night, while only 11 percent said they intend to show up.

Alan said he is not surprised to hear most gay people plan on steering clear of the Castro this year. As he talks to people about Halloween, he said he is finding many people have given up on the street party.

"I am disappointed, but also, I am very sympathetic. I have been to the parties the last two years in the Castro on Halloween and they were not safe," he said. "I am sympathetic to the people who say they are going to sit back and watch what you guys do and if it works we will come back next year," said Alan.

Measures of success

This year's event will be judged a success less on attendance num-



Event map for Halloween in the Castro.

bers and more on if the new rules and entertainment prevent the return of last year's violence. Several people were reportedly stabbed while numerous others were injured amid the crush of the crowds along Castro Street.

Dufty said he will know if the city's taking charge of what has been an unofficial event for the last several years is a success just by the energy of the crowd.

"Being on the streets last year it felt like the neighborhood was invaded. There was an air that was hostile. It felt like a fight was on the verge of breaking out every two seconds," he said. "I am interested to see more of a fun night, a more mellow night. I am really in-

terested to see if people in the neighborhood come out and enjoy themselves."

The committee planning for Halloween will rate the evening a success on "whether or not someone is injured, there's property damage or worse," said Alan. "But we are looking for a reduction in the amount of provoked injuries and a reduction in the amount of gay-related violence against the community, both property and individuals. The greatest measure of success is if everyone is in a costume."

Straight alternative

In combating unruly suburbanites, many of whom show up sans costume with the aim to get drunk and heckle the crowd, organizers are getting unexpected help from another competing event this year. Called Hallofest, the event is a street party stretching four city blocks on China Basin Street near Kelly's Mission Rock, a popular straight bar. Ads for the event say the party has a 10,000-person capacity and will feature artists, dancers, a VIP tomb, and sexy fashion show.

The event also will have five stages of live entertainment and tickets, at \$30 a person, are being sold throughout the Bay Area. Unlike the lackluster Halloween parties in the Civic Center, which so bored participants that they left in droves and walked up to join the happenings in the Castro, the first Hallofest could very well provide straight partygoers with a viable, and fun, alternative to the Castro party.

"I have been in touch with those folks and if the event goes as represented, it will pull more of the people who really belong at a straight event" from the Castro, said Alan. "Their event is geared more toward the straight crowd."

In the end, Alan said even if only 1,000 people show up to the Castro party, as long as the event stays safe then all the work gone into planning for Halloween will have been worth it.

"As long as it is safe and fun and we can tell the community this is your party again, that we have managed to make it safe for the community to come out and have fun, that is our goal," said Alan. "The goal is to bring it back to the Castro community and make it a neighborhood event."

For more information about the Castro event, visit www.halloweensf.com.

Other events

With Halloween falling on a Friday this year, there is no short-

age of ways to ring in the holiday while avoiding the Castro. From haunting theatrical performances to just weird goings-on at gay bars in other parts of town, there are numerous events planned to provide the spook to your Halloween.

On October 25, the Saturday prior to Halloween, the more low-key, spontaneous gathering in the Castro is expected to bring out costumed revelers. Also that evening marks the seventh Hellball, a costumed dance party and fundraiser featuring DJ Tony Moran and drag queen diva Kevin Aviance, with other surprise performances.

Tickets, which start at \$60, can be purchased at Body Body Wear on Castro, Body by Citizen on 18th Street or online at www.hellball.org. Hellball 7 takes place from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. at the Galleria Design Center at 2 Henry Adams Street. The dance benefits Maitri and Continuum.

The Clift Hotel is hosting a Halloween Masquerade Ball on Thursday night, October 30, to benefit the Academy of Friends. Costumes are required for this bash, which will take over the hotel's lobby, restaurant, and Red Room bar. The evening begins at 8 p.m. with an open bar until 11 p.m. and ends at 2 a.m.

Tickets cost \$100 and can be purchased by calling (415) 929-2301. The Clift is located at 495 Geary Street.

Friday night the Oakland Black Gay, Lesbian, Transgender People in Pride is hosting its first Halloween fundraiser. The event will be held at the Bates House, a beautiful bed and breakfast at 399 Bellevue Avenue in Oakland, and features a costume contest, raffle, free gifts, buffet, wine, and beer.

The event, which will take place from 8 p.m. to midnight, is limited to the first 50 people, with tickets costing \$35 per person or \$50 for couples. To purchase tickets, visit the Web site bookhouse-cafe.com.

Spend Halloween with The Cockettes at the LGBT Community Center for a special evening of films and a live performance with the renowned queer performing group. The show starts at 6 p.m. with a screening of the 1971 cult film classic *Elevator Girls in Bondage*. As the program describes it, the movie starts in a seedy SOMA flophouse with elevator girl Maxine, who leads a workers revolt through folk songs, Marxist maxims, and sexual anarchy.

At 7 p.m. "Showtime! Life is a Cockette Cabaret!" will begin. The Cockettes will appear live on stage, doling out fashion tips, film clips, and snappy repartee with their unique, over-the-top genderfuck drag sensibility.

Hosted by Rumi as elevator girl Maxine, their gig will be highlighted by a fashion show modeling a stunning series of designer jackets embellished by Bill Bowers and Mark Phillips. Audience members are encouraged to wear Halloween attire and strut their stuff on the runway. *The Palace* - a Cockumentary film of the Halloween revue *Les Ghouls* with behind-the-scenes costume and makeup secrets - will screen in its entirety before the celebration moves on to Market and Castro at about 8 p.m.

Admission is free for center members and a \$5 donation is asked for others, though no one is turned away for lack of funds. Free childwatch is available until 8:30 p.m. The center is located at 1800 Market Street. For information call (415) 865-5555 or e-mail gayflix@yahoo.com.

The Haight's gay bar Trax will turn into "Traxylvania" on Hal-

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Crystal meth

◀ page 2

one new full time clinician in our substance abuse program. Just having another clinician be able to provide substance abuse services means far fewer people calling our agency wanting those services that will have to wait."

New Leaf currently employs six staffers, all but one of whom are full-time, who work on substance abuse cases. Each handles about 20 active clients at any given time.

"The agency can see over 100 clients, of which 75 percent is geared toward gay and bi men," said Neisen. "The biggest increase in the last several years is the number of men coming in with crystal meth problems."

New Leaf has already been able to reduce its wait time to little more than a week by only scheduling appointments a week in advance. The agency also has free drop-in acupuncture sessions twice a week people can attend while waiting for counseling.

"We probably have about six to eight people a week we end up asking to call back to get an intake the following week," said Neisen. "Most people get in the second week."

At Stonewall, 45 people are on a wait list, and the extra money will be used to increase the agency's staff. Currently, four counselors work part-time and 50 men are in the program.

"Clearly the bulk of the money will go to hiring staff to be able to see more people to reduce the waiting list," said Michael Siever, the project's executive director. "That is where clearly there is a huge need. We constantly have folks calling and requesting help."

To help absorb the demand, Stonewall has created a group for people on the waiting list to join and has open hours every day to provide some immediate assistance to men in need.

"The sooner you can be there for someone the better," said Siever.

Siever also hopes to use some of the money to support the Web site tweaker.org, a harm reduction effort aimed at educating gay men about speed and its harmful effects.

"There needs to be a parallel track: help for people already in trouble with crystal meth and education out there for folks on how to reduce the harm if you are going to use or give them information to have second thoughts about using this drug," he said. "A lot of the HIV risk happening under crystal meth may or may not be someone who has an addiction problem. When people get high they go to town sexually and end up getting or giving HIV to someone else."

Both Neisen and Siever are meeting with health department officials this week to discuss their awards and how they will be able to allocate the money. While they

praised the decision to allocate the funding, both men said they hope it will not be a one-time funding source.

"Part of the issue always with funding questions is getting one-time chunks of money is a little difficult for any agency. It is hard to hire someone on an ongoing basis when you only have so much money for a limited time," said Siever. "That is on the agenda to talk about. Hopefully this can be funding that will be ongoing."

Steven Tierney, the city's director of HIV prevention, did not return calls seeking comment by press time. In the statement announcing the funding allocation, Tierney indicated this was only the first measure the health department is taking to address crystal meth abuse.

"Speed is taking a terrible toll on the gay community in San Francisco and it requires a coordinated and comprehensive community response. This is an important first step," he said.

According to the release, Tierney will be overseeing the allocation of the remaining \$250,000 to community organizations skilled in youth services that propose programs for adolescents (ages 13-17) and early adults (18-24) facing dual challenges of HIV risk and substance abuse.

"We're asking providers to propose direct services that enable adolescents and early adults to avoid the land mines of meth and high-risk behavior in our community," said Duffy in the release. "To have a Castro Renaissance, we must become a more safe and welcoming place for youth and early adults. We need quick intervention when young people arrive in the Castro without resources. Otherwise, these young people become dependent upon meth, the sex trade, and enter a cycle of homelessness that's tough to break."

Once such agency hoping to tap into the funding is Ohlhoff Recovery Programs. Barbara Farrell, the agency's executive director, met with both Tierney and Duffy this week to discuss how her agency can assist in combating the crystal meth problem.

Farrell said the agency has recently served seven gay men as clients, along with two women, who had speed addictions. However, the clients could not afford the 30-day program themselves, and the agency has been trying to raise funds to cover its costs.

"It has become such an issue that we need to get designated funds to cover this program and have available beds for them," said Farrell.

Ideally, she said she would like to move the agency's offices out of its house on Steiner Street and turn the rooms in the old Victorian into an in-patient treatment program for gay youth with speed addictions. Farrell, who has been the executive director for five years, said finding funding for such a program has been difficult.

"Unfortunately foundations,

As for the butt depictions, Roe said they may be auctioned off at a future fundraiser. And at next year's American Public Health Association conference, Magnet officials intend to present their butt brainstorm as an example of a clever method groups can use in their community organizing and health education efforts.

In the end, Magnet officials hope their endeavor has helped men to "take back the butt / embrace 'bottom pride' / then get back in the saddle / and go for a ride!" as Orr writes in his song. ▼

Migden off and running for Senate



State Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden, left, was joined by Supervisor Aaron Peskin, center, as she kicked off her signature gathering effort in the Castro Saturday, October 18. Migden last week announced plans to run for the 3rd District state Senate seat being vacated by termed out John Burton. The district includes San Francisco, Marin County, and part of Sonoma County.

unless they have a specific bent, have not been enthusiastic about supporting young men who have substance abuse issues," said Farrell. "For some reason a lot of people assume it should be handled by the government. The only way government has done this is through the criminal justice system, and we want to see people before they get there."

In the next two weeks, Farrell said she will be sending the health department a letter of intent to create an eight to 10-bed program for young gay men between the ages of 18 to 25.

"This is an area that is underserved. We all know it, everyone in the field knows that," said Farrell.

"I am actually thrilled Bevan Duffy has taken this step in this direction. We want to help those young men too and be part of that solution."

Duffy said this week he is working with city departments, community-based and faith-based organizations, and community members to take on the problem of crystal meth with a city-wide campaign to be launched in January.

"I have asked religious leaders serving the LGBT community to work with me on a series of events and activities around the weekend of January 10-11, 2004," he said. "Lastly, a media campaign is being developed to allow the communi-

ty to tell the truth about speed. What role has it played in their life and the lives of their friends and lovers."

Since his first forum last spring, Duffy said he feels the community is making some headway in dealing with the crystal problem. But he cautioned more needs to be done.

"I feel we are making movement, but the most important element is the community's engagement. This is not a problem I, as a public official, can solve," said Duffy. "I can create a dialogue to create initiatives but ultimately it is dependent on our community to direct this effort and move this forward." ▼

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Gay Life, promoting gay men's sexual health and emotional well-being. Gay Life is a program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

GAY Life

sf aids foundation

Magnet event

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there is only one shape to a gay man but each butt is unique and each gay man is unique," said Roe.

The butt symposium will take place Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Magnet, located at 4122 18th Street. On Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Magnet is hosting a pumpkin carving. Jack-o-lanterns will be provided for free, already hollowed out, as long as carvers can incorporate a butt into their design.

Gay man works body

by Eric Ganther

It all begins in the body: physical health, mental health, pleasure, pain. What a fabulous instrument! Queers have a special relationship to the body because our difference is related to gender and sexuality. We don't experience our bodies and the impulses arising from them in the same way as the majority. We're different and we often struggle with our body images as a result. But growing through the struggle, we learn a special body-based compassion that the rest of society sorely needs. Physical therapy is a field where we can use our special knowledge to earn a good living. Personal training is a great way to literally build community and explore the deeper meaning of health and beauty. This week I interview John Soriano: hard-working gay man and knowledgeable body technician.

Do you get a lot of people asking: "My shoulder hurts when I work out. Am I doing something wrong?"

Yes. And I don't give simple answers. I need to do a complete examination before I can give a recommendation. Exercise can hurt you or heal you, it's my job to help you heal.

Where do you work?

As a physical therapist, I work with my brother in a clinic, Orthopedic Physical Therapy, in Newark (East Bay). As a personal trainer I work at Muscle Systems in the Castro.

What does a typical day look like?

I'm a physical therapist in the mornings from 6 a.m. to noon, and a personal trainer from 2 to 9 p.m. I work long hours, but the good thing is that when I have a cancellation, I practice what I preach and do my own workout. Right now, I'm saving money to open a physical therapy practice in San Francisco.

What's the buzz about stretching? The new idea about stretching

is that everybody should stretch after working out. You have to look at your muscle like a rubber band, if you put it in the freezer and stretch it, it will break, but if you put it in warm water and then stretch it, it will give. Stretching increases the length of your muscle and this flexibility helps prevent injury. So I tell my personal training clients to warm up by doing more reps with less weight of the exercises they plan on doing that day anyway.

Can you look at a body and see how a person works out?

Absolutely. You can tell which body part they like most. Ideally, you would create a body where none of the parts stick out. It's funny, because body parts come in and out of fashion. Now it's glutes and abs, probably because of J Lo jeans. But imbalanced workouts can mess up your posture.

How are physical therapy and personal training related?

Physical therapy is for people who are injured and can't function. At the clinic, we handle work-related injuries and geriatric Medicare patients. I work with patients who've had total hip replacements, back injuries, or those who can't walk due to long-term hospitalizations.

Physical therapy is a very hard field to get into. It's not an MD, but it's taught at medical schools and is part of the medical establishment. A licensed physical therapist will be very knowledgeable about how the body works, what exercises are effective with which muscles, and how to keep people motivated to make changes in their bodies.

Personal training is for people who want to look better and have more energy. It only takes about five days to become a certified personal trainer. Because of this, you have to be very careful when you hire a personal trainer. A lot of trainers just copy everybody else's workout or take them from mag-

azines without any knowledge of why they're good or bad. Bad trainers give each client the same workout regardless of their body needs or exercise goals.

What do you like about being a physical therapist?

I love my work. I love physical therapy because I'm helping people every single day. I help them get through what is sometimes intense pain so they feel happier and have more energy to offer the world. My work creates a chain reaction of happiness. And it's financially rewarding. Physical therapy is in very high demand right now.

The health care industry isn't as threatened by boom and bust economic cycles.

We're all aging and many of us will be requiring some kind of physical therapy.

What's hard about it?

I spend a lot of time doing complicated and time-consuming paperwork. I dread it. It's unpaid. It's tedious. I'm also still learning how to deal with the complexity of people's emotions. As a physical therapist, I'm dealing with people who are in pain and are sometimes depressed and frustrated because of their injuries.

What's hard about personal training?

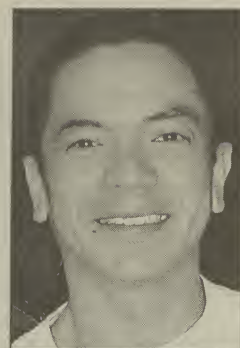
I require that my clients have an internal goal for working out. Sometimes they'll say they're absolutely ready, but as we begin the program I see that they're not motivated by internal goals, they just want to look better than other people. They're not willing to put in the time to work as hard as I expect them to. If they just give 100 percent, they're never going to change. I also require specific diets. These changes strongly affect people's emotions; it can make them cranky and miserable.

What do you mean by internal goal?

Committing to make yourself feel better on a daily basis. We all go through lots of stress and depression. And working out is a good antidote to depression and loneliness and boredom. The gym is a good place to socialize and work with your body. And when you feel better in your body, you can be more effective at work. It's an energy thing. Working out gives you energy you can share with other people.

How long have you been a physical therapist? Why did you choose it?

I went to physical therapy school in the Philippines because it was considered the best path to medical school. I wanted to be a doctor. But I ended up working part-time as a physical therapist and really enjoyed it. So I quit



Physical therapist and trainer John Soriano

medical school and expanded physical therapy. I've been doing it for 19 years now.

How long have you been a personal trainer?

About three years ago, I realized that I could make some extra income as a personal trainer. I started by getting certified at 24 Hour Fitness and then worked part-time for them. But they don't allow independent trainers and I don't like following anybody else's policies. Muscle Systems allows me to be the kind of professional I want to be.

What do you recommend to someone interested in being a physical therapist? How's the market?

Do you want to do this because you enjoy working with people? If not, don't go into it because you'll never be successful. You must be a caring person and disregard your other needs so you can provide care for a client at the moment he or she needs it. Physical therapy is hot right now. We make a noticeable difference in people's lives and that helps hospitals seem like effective places. We help the bottom line.

If you've got a bachelor's degree in any field, you can probably become a licensed physical therapist in four years, including a one-year internship where you'll go around from hospital to hospital learning the different specialties within the field - geriatric, orthopedic, sports, etc.

Are there a lot of queer people in physical therapy?

Yes. I know this for a fact. Gay guys are more interested in caring for people. Straight guys often see physical therapy as a nursing job and see more prestige in other fields. There are straight guys who can be caring without feeling feminine. But gay guys aren't as hung up about it. Gay guys are drawn to it because of the emphasis on the body, the caring aspect, and the money.

What recommendations do you have for wannabe personal trainers?

You can't really make a living as a personal trainer in San Francisco anymore. Most trainers have other jobs. Especially in this economy, people are pinching their

pennies and cutting back. It's not like the dot-com era when everybody had a personal trainer.

I like being a personal trainer at Muscle Systems because most of the guys working out here are gay. I love working in the community because I don't have to lie. I can say that I went to a gay club last night, or that I'm dating a man, or that I broke up with my boyfriend, etc. In a more straight setting I might not want to tell them I'm gay because I don't want to be judged on my sexuality.

Do queers relate to bodies differently than straights?

The goals are generally the same: healthier, leaner, more muscular. But, in the gay community, you're often measured by what your body looks like. I think gay men sometimes use their muscles as camouflage. It has something to do with being perceived as less masculine than a straight guy. With muscles they can take control of their lives and businesses. Gay men are more likely to want personal training solely as a means of attracting mates. Straight guys aren't as focused on looks.

Straight women I've trained tend to want to be more sensual, whereas gay women definitely want to be strong and are as competitive as men. Some want to be as big and powerful as men.

Working with bodies all day long, do you get propositioned a lot?

Sometimes. Many personal trainers also work as escorts so there can be an expectation. I'm not an escort. Personal training is a personal relationship and sometimes this leads to romantic feelings. But I draw a line between business and pleasure. To not do so would compromise my ability to help my clients achieve their goals.

What do your boyfriends think about your work? Are they threatened?

Well, I'm single now. But, since I don't combine my training with escort work, my partners respect me for helping other people change their bodies and their lives.

Thanks, John. Good luck on starting your own practice. ▼

Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. He is a workshop leader and is writing a book on gay and lesbian work identity. E-mail him your questions, comments, and suggestions: eric@ericganther.com.

Correction

In the last column ["Gay producer crazy for radio," October 9] the signal listing for KPFA-FM was incorrect. It can be found at 94.1 FM. We regret the error.

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Halloween

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loween night with music by Les Vegas and vintage films by Super8man. There is no cover and the bar is planning a "brain eating" contest. Located at 1437 Haight Street, the party will go from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. and costumes are encouraged.

At the New Conservatory Theatre Center, located at 25 Van Ness

Avenue, a special Halloween costume contest is planned at the 8 p.m. show of *Son of Darkula*, a new one-man show by David Drake, the performer and creator of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*. Tickets cost \$28 and can be purchased by calling (415) 861-8972.

Friends of Dorothy can dress up as their favorite character from the beloved movie *The Wizard of Oz* and join in a sing-a-long to the film's famous songs at the Metro-

politan Community Church-San Francisco in the Castro, located at 150 Eureka Street. Members of the predominantly gay church are turning the sanctuary into a haunted forest. Costumes, whether they be flying monkeys or Munchkins, are encouraged and door prizes, including an Emerald City-style spa treatment, will be awarded.

The sing-a-long takes place from 7 to 11 p.m., with a suggestion
next page ▶

OBITUARIES

Joseph Rocky Marszal
May 19, 1951 — March 2, 2003

Joseph Rocky Marszal passed away peacefully on the evening of Sunday, March 2, 2003, from an AIDS-related illness. He died at his home in San Francisco in the company of his companion of 19 years, Dale Sides, his spiritual teacher of 16 years, Karen Johnson, and other loving friends. Joseph's parents had both preceded him in death during recent

years, and he had no siblings. He was, however, loved and respected by many, both in the Bay Area and around the world.

Joseph was born in South Bend, Indiana, and after study at Indiana University and Case Western Reserve moved to San Francisco in the late 1970s. A classically-trained violinist throughout his younger life, Joseph began training as a classical dancer after moving to San Francisco. Soon his love of the body brought him to the study of massage and other bodywork therapies, and he began his first work in this area at Finni-la's Finnish Sauna on Market St., in what is now Tower Records. In the late '80s he also taught aerobics at the Central YMCA, and also began his study of

Buddhist meditation, which he also taught at the Y.

Joseph taught at the International School of Massage Therapy, the San Francisco School of Massage, and then established his own school, the Pacific Somatics Institute. His greatest fulfillment was as a craniosacral therapist, which he also taught in the Bay Area and at schools in Europe, New Zealand, and Australia.

Joseph became a student of the Rishwan School for Spiritual Development, a contemporary spiritual path, in which he was active for 16 years until the end of his life. Over those years he contributed tremendously to this School, as a student, teacher, and administrator, and is greatly missed by many of his

friends there. A memorial was held for Joseph on March 16 at the Rishwan School in Berkeley.

We feel our undying connection to you, Joseph, over space and time. You have imparted your unique vision and your passion for life to those of us fortunate to have known you. You always wanted to leave your mark. And you have done that well.

Simon Gruber

June 15, 1925 — July 20, 2003



Born in Austria. Preceded in death by sister Stefanie. Survived by three brothers: Stefan and Hans in Austria and Gus in Vancouver, B.C. Also nieces and nephews. Lived in San Francisco over 40 years. Contributions to Project Open Hand or SPCA.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Providers host youth HIV symposium

by Matthew S. Bajko

Bay Area HIV prevention providers are organizing a symposium on prevention for positives, youth of color and substance abuse among young people to take place in early November.

The primary purpose of the symposium will be to build community capacity within San Francisco to deal with special issues

placing youth at risk for HIV infection. The goals for the event include encouraging social networking between youth service providers; forming linkages and referrals between youth service agencies; developing cultural competencies for dealing with specific youth populations; and identifying new areas for service efforts while also reducing programming duplication.

The Q Action program of the Stop AIDS Project is spearheading the event with steering committee members from Bay Positives, Shanti, Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, the mayor's office, and the Connect to Protect Project at the University of California at San Francisco. Steven Tierney, the health department's director of HIV prevention, will be the forum's keynote speaker.

The free event, which breakfast and lunch provided, will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, November 7 at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. The conference is open to youth and providers who work with youth, but space is limited to the first 100 participants who register.

Registration is available online at www.ezplanning.us by selecting Partnerships for Youth — Bridging the Gaps in HIV Prevention under conference info and registration.

For more information, call Q Action's Plunket Phommachanh at (415) 865-0790, ext. 303. ▼

Halloween

◀ previous page

ed donation of \$25 (sliding scale). Tickets are available in advance at MCC-SF or at the door. The event is meant to be a sober alternative to the Castro party and popcorn and refreshments will be provided. Proceeds benefit the Metropolitan Community Foundation. Call (415) 863-4434 to order tickets.

Dance parties

Of course there are numerous dance parties planned for after the street party ends. Heklina, host of the main stage in the Castro, will trek over to space550 for Meatball, a Halloween costume jamboree. Billed as the trashiest and cheapest Halloween costume party, the event is aimed at the trannies, queer-bois, electro-heads, club-kids, indi-punks and fags who are denizens of Heklina's weekly Trannyshack at the Stud.

Meatball is a repeat of last year's outrageous costume party, Palladium Idol, search for a superstar. Along with a costume contest hosted by Heklina, there will be a special "SEX" electro-performance by Kennedy and Michael Soldier of the glam-rock drag-danceband, Pepperspray. Electro/Miami-Bass/Breakbeat DJ

Jim Hopkins is playing in the Green Room and Ellen Ferrato is set to spin funky and progressive house music in the main room. Los Angeles Electrotrash band Dirty Sanchez with Jackie Beat and Mario Diaz will also make its San Francisco debut.

The party will go from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. with the show at midnight and the costume contest at 1 a.m. Tickets cost \$10, though it is free before 10:30 p.m. and the first 25 people in costume will receive a free CD. The club is located at 550 Barneveld.

At Club 220 will be Smut Hut, a take-off on Pizza Hut, featuring DJ Blackstone from Faith playing dance music and queer punk rock bands performing on the club's downstairs stage. Tickets cost \$10 and the party, at 220 Jones Street, runs from midnight to 4 a.m. For more information, visit www.smuthut.com.

John Wood, a Castro resident and member of the Late Night Coalition, is hosting Tantra, an underground music event at So-mArts Gallery at 934 Brannan Street. There will be three rooms featuring different DJs throughout the night and a Day of Dead art maze in the front gallery. The party is 18 and over and goes from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Tickets cost \$20. For more information, visit www.TantraSF.com. ▼

In Memoriam
William F. Sprick

3/13/54 - 10/10/03

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October magic

by Jim Provenzano

There's something about pinstripe baseball uniforms that simply make the New York Yankees my favorite team.

The nostalgic history dear to any born New Yorker, the amazing athletes who don the uniforms, in particular hunks like Derek Jeter,



Derek Jeter as Derek Jeter in the World Series.

Jason Giambi, Jorge Posada, Hideki Matsui, Aaron Boone, David Dellucci ... I'll stop now.

Suffice it to say, by the time you read this, hopefully the men in pinstripes will once again be enjoying a bit of October magic, and a new set of championship rings.

The same ring plays an amus-

ing symbolic part in the utterly wonderful *Take Me Out*, Richard Greenberg's Tony Award-winning drama about a gay biracial baseball player whose coming out stirs up more trouble than he expects.

The fictional New York Empire bears a pinstriped similarity to the Yankees in their team location, roster, and perhaps one day, their having a gay player.

That the character, Darren Lemming, bears a physical similarity to Derek Jeter has been noted. Speculation over the sexual orientation of many a pro baseball player has made Greenberg's play a well-timed hit, and an entertaining one as well.

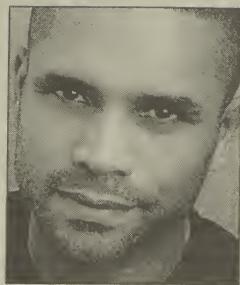
During my recent visit back to New York City, seeing the play was a highlight. Anytime visiting the Big Apple should make sure to see this play, which provides a juicy bite into the world of machismo, identity, and homophobia in athletics.

My disappointment at not once again seeing the gorgeous and talented Daniel Sunjata perform in the lead role was dismissed the minute understudy Michael Duvert stepped out onstage. His muscular frame and ease in portraying the at-first aloof Lemming helped guide this latest, and most polished, version of Greenberg's play to each of its dramatic high points.

Some other cast members fit the show, well, like a glove. They should, having created their roles in the original London premiere, and the longer previous Public Theatre version.

Tapered down to two acts, but still obviously structured in three, *Take Me Out* brings players of different races and backgrounds together in a witty tour de force that both exalts and examines our very American game.

The inclusion of a real gay player may have ruffled media



Michael Duvert as Darren Lemming in *Take Me Out*

feathers around the world in past years, but that may not have been enough for a drama. Sometimes, fiction offers more truth.

Greenberg peppers the conflicts with the inclusion of mullet-donned Shane Mungitt, a John Rucker-type southerner, whose bigotry at first shocks the play's characters, but whose fireball pitches cut off the team's losing streak.

Including more than brooding jocks, Kippy Sunderstrom (Neal Huff) serves as narrator and participant in the plot. His intelligent affection for Lemming draws some presumptions about his own masculinity.

Add one fey business manager in the form of Mason Marzac (Denis O'Hare), and Lemming has a brother (or sister?) confessor of sorts.

Lemming loses his love of the sport as the tragic consequences of his coming out further the team's problems, while Marzac learns to see the beauty of baseball, and understandably goes a bit overboard in his fandom.

Many gay fans of the play have gone equally overboard over the extensive male nudity in the play's shower scenes, notably the muscular Kippy Duvert, Sunjata, and actors Gene Gabriel and Robert M. Jiménez. Ai, papi!

But those initial stunning moments develop into a more natural exploration of human vulnerability. The wet naked men need to be shown this way, to visualize the age-old controversy of locker room homoeroticism. Even the

cliché of dropping the soap is deftly handled as the players cautiously negotiate their "gayified" once-sacred space.

For gay outsiders like Lemming's business manager Marzac, his affection for baseball, and baseball players, evolves beyond an erotic one.

"At first it was a chore. I couldn't tell one player from another," he says. "And then I could. It was ... this ... astonishment! This ... abundance. So much to learn, so much to memorize."

Marzac's enthusiasm may strike home for gay men and lesbians who've felt left out by sports. For one reason or another, we're allowed entry onto the hallowed fields of athletics, and when we are, it's wonderful.

But for Lemming, having to face a "mess" for the first time in his career proves too difficult. "Mess does not flow forth from Darren Lemming," teammate

Kippy states early on in the play.

Yet the "mess" of fundamentalist friends, epithet-hurling pitchers, and gay athletes feuding in and out of the locker room is so neatly handled by Greenberg's script, and the stalwart performances, it's no wonder that it continues to fill houses so long after its opening.

The audience I saw it with was a mix of older married couples, and amused gay men. Outside the stage door, as some of the actors signed programs, they still talked with enthusiasm about the message of the play, and their pride in being a part of it.

Like Marzac, even in the midst of the World Series, I can't wait until next season, and to see the San Francisco touring production.

The dope show

The Yankees' Jason Giambi may be sweating bullets off the World Series field as well as on the field.

A federal grand jury has subpoenaed Giambi, a former Oakland A's player, and SF Giants slugger Barry Bonds, for their possible knowledge or use and purchase of a steroid manufactured by Balco Labs.

The designer steroids made at the Burlingame laboratory, called THB, are said to have been unde-

tectable in drug tests done on track athletes at a recent competition held at Stanford University.

"I don't know much about it," said a shirtless Giambi to TV cameras following Game Two of the World Series.

Bonds, however, has done paid endorsements for the "supplement" making company. Bonds's personal trainer, Greg Anderson, had his home searched, and samples of the supplement seized by the DEA, following an IRS investigation of Balco.

It's sad to have possible confirmation that some stellar performances may be the result of better living through chemistry.

Typo negative

On a lighter note the always screech-filled *New York Post* made a major league gaffe last Friday, when it printed an early edition claiming that the Red Sox had defeated the Yankees in the playoffs.

The Rupert Murdoch/News Corporation-owned tabloid daily editor-in-chief Col Allan said that the editorial ran in about 200,000 copies of the paper. The Yankees, of course, actually won the game.

"Someone here made an error. It's as simple as that," he said. "It's not good, but it's human error. These things happen."

The Cubs lost their league playoff, in part due to an appropriately named fan, a Mr. Steve Bartman, whose leap to catch a ball possibly cost the Cubs a potential World Series gig. Someone needs to be reminded that baseball is not an audience participation event.

And for those who think baseball broadcasts mean big money, think again.

Fox Sports President Ed Goren last week told CNN that despite strong ratings for this year's baseball post-season, the network will continue to lose money on the broadcasts due to rights fees paid to Major League Baseball.

So, if I declare the Marlins the winners of the World Series, can I hope to be wrong? Will I apologize? Will I, a mere neophyte baseball fan, instead predict another Yankees victory?

In a New York minute. ▼

Read my interview with playwright Richard Greenberg at www.sportscomplex.org.

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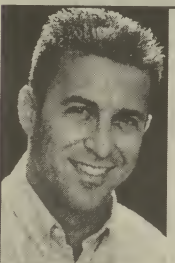
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Gay Games VII

◀ page 14

this project. We're on track, ahead of it every step of the way. At what point do you stop clinging to the failures of the past and say, 'Hey, maybe this is going to work?'

Having the Games return to

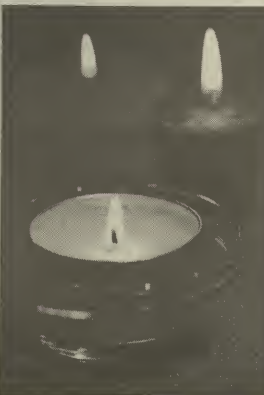
North America, and in particular, the Northeast Coast, will assuredly make for easier travel plans in an area where a majority of Games participants live.

Despite attempts to internationalize the Games by having it hosted in Amsterdam in 1998, and Sydney in 2002, the majority of participants continue to be Amer-

icans.

The convenient proximity of Montreal to major U.S. cities, as well as increased participation among Canadians, led Montreal 2006 to initially estimate 24,000 participants. Easier immigration policies, and its bilingual culture make Montreal more appealing to

next page ▶



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CLASSIFIEDS

Gay Games VII

◀ previous page

European athletes and visitors.

But by 2002, federation leaders asked the Montreal committee to lower their expectations down to 11,000, the average number of registered participants over the past three Games.

Montreal organizers resisted, but have lowered their numbers to about 15,500, which is the lowest they estimate that will allow them to financially break even.

Tewksbury said it would also limit the scope of inclusion, one of the main tenets of the original Games philosophy.

The federation's Carson said that Montreal has already hampered negotiations by releasing newsletters and other information without federation approval.

Further, a somewhat international rift has put the Canadian hosts on the defensive.

"It is unthinkable that financial decisions on the Games be made by anyone other than its Board of Directors, who are legally responsible for the outcome of the event," stated Roy. "As well, the citizens of Montreal, Quebec and Canada would never accept the use of their tax dollars being determined by a small group of people directing the federation."

Combining events

Another important issue is the timing of Gay Games VII.

Combining both the Games and Montreal's annual Pride events, Diversité, in the same week (July 29-August 5), are seen as either a plus or a deduction, depending on one's perspective.

The federation's Carson mentioned concerns of volunteers being spread too thin with Pride obligations. He cited New York's 1994 Games as having become "lost in Stonewall 25 celebrations." That event, which anticipated larger numbers, lost money as well.

Carson also stressed the unproven ability of the city of Montreal to accommodate up to 15,000 Games participants, as well as perhaps three times as many Diversité tourists.

But Tewksbury said he was assured that a wide range of accommodations, from hosted housing to luxury hotels, would be made available.

"We feel it is our baby now," said Tewksbury. "We own the right to host it, and we've acted in accordance with that plan. If we'd waited to sign a license agreement before doing anything," none of their achievements thus far could have been accomplished, he said.

This is before they have signed any contracts or made any payments, both of which will be due by November 7.

Despite some more sensationalized reports elsewhere, other than a few disputed press releases,

has anything been done by Montreal that is out of step with federation rules?

"This is the first time that a license agreement was not signed prior to the conclusion of the previous Gay Games," said Carson. "There is no violation of the license agreement per se, because there is no license agreement at this time. Montreal 2006 has several times pledged to act in the spirit of the license agreement until both parties reach consensus."

If the negotiations reach an impasse, Montreal 2006 representatives have said that they may go ahead with an international sports event, whether it is officially called Gay Games or not.

Having already spent \$1.5 million (Canadian) on promotions, developments, and administrative costs, Montreal 2006 has "an obligation to investors to deliver an event to our shareholders that's fiscally responsible," said Tewksbury. "These are public monies we are responsible for. We've got a house half built here."

Should the event not obtain licensing agreements from the federation, it will splinter what seemed a very friendly relationship only two years ago. Montreal was chosen to host Games VII at the federation's 2001 meeting, held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

After several other cities (mostly in the U.S.) were also considered, Montreal won the bid to host Gay Games VII in 2006.

Now, they may host their own event in spite of the federation.

"We still hope," said Roy, "that the federation and Montreal 2006 can come to an agreement and that we will be able to announce this in Chicago. After working on this project for two years, we have now established links with some 500 gay and lesbian sports teams around the world, which means that we can look forward to an edition of the Games on an unprecedented scale, regardless of the outcome of our negotiations."

Should Montreal hold 2006's event, named "Rendez-vous," without federation approval, they have cautiously said that they may move the official Gay Games VII to the year 2007.

Although no alternate city has been named, protocol involves choosing one of the losing bid cities. Among those are Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Chicago, which is hosting next month's annual meeting.

"No matter where a Gay Games might be held in 2006, an organizing committee is going to need as much time as possible and so a decision must be made soon," said Carson. "We're hopeful of a positive outcome." ▼

For more information, visit www.montreal2006.org and www.gaygames.org.

NLGJA

◀ page 5

said. "And you can do it as a journalist, all you have to do is tell the story of another human being."

The veteran journalist drew a laugh from the crowd when she told the irony of getting an honor at the Starlight Room because it was the place where she first "cheated" to get a drink as an underage young woman.

The event was emceed by Liam Maydem, the witty effervescent host of KRON's morning news show. Speakers included Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who cautioned that the LGBT community should be on guard against the possible erosion of LGBT rights by the administration of Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The lead sponsors of the evening were the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, and AFTRA. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0270196-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CDX/DLD J.V. 1595 Fairfax Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a joint venture signed Steven N. Chup/president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 23, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/24/2003.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269872-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Molas, 4035 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jose A. Canto. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/12/2003.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270227-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lilliputian Pictures, 3553 20th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph R. Goldstone. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 25, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/25/2003.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269973-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CM Recruiting, 439 Moraga Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christina K. Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 15, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/17/2003.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270262-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wing Cheung Co. 2832 Fulton Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yau Sunny W. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 26, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/2003.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270253-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ba And Such, 1382 Underwood Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ba Huynh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 26, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/2003.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540950

In the Matter of the Application of Tana Marietta Chrisman For change of Name. The application of Tana Marietta Chrisman for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Tana Marietta Chrisman has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Montana Marietta Chrisman. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270329-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bangkok Noodles, 156 Powell Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Somnuk Loui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270327-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: West Portal Shoe Service, 79 West Portal Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed George Bartsiakos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 30, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003.
OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270363-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Iridescent, 3937 17th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel Nicholas Warth. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/01/2003.
OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270323-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rosie's, 3463 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Everardo Duenas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 30, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003.
OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0269833-00

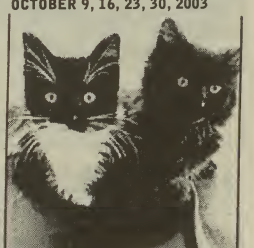
The following person(s) are doing business as: Alfie Handy, 56 Seville Street, San Francisco, 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Alberto Benavides. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 10, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/10/2003.
OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 261755

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rosie's Florist. Located at: 1155 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business was conducted by an individual signed Everardo Duenas. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 22, 2002.
OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0261549-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Dream Gift & Varieties. Located at: 347 Judah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business was conducted by a husband and wife signed Leslie I. Tsang and Jason Tsang. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 11, 2002.
OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003



City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Proposals # 253

Dear Potential Applicant:
The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFHHS) announces its intent to seek proposals for the provision of respite services for county-licensed and optional for recovery foster parents and relative caregivers. The contractor will be expected to recruit, train, and manage a group of respite providers to be available to provide respite services. The contractor will also be expected to provide outreach to foster parents and relative caregivers, as well as coordinate the provision of respite hours to the foster parents and relative caregivers, track respite services, and provide monthly reports.

The contract period will run from 1/1/04 to 6/30/05 for an amount to be determined.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFHHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Friday, October 17, 2003. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The RFP packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after October 17, 2003. Go to <http://HHS.SFCA.US/BIIDS.NSF> and click on the Consultants and Professional Services link.

The Respondents Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2003 at 9:30 AM at 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Kimberly Ferguson, at (415) 557-5585. Due date for responses is Monday, November 17, 2003 at 5:00 PM.
10/23/03
CNS: 596682
BAY AREA REPORTER

LEGAL NOTICES

HE SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Announces a hearing on Girls in San Francisco on October 29, 2003

Here's the good news! San Francisco teen birth rates are declining.

In 1990, eight hundred and eight (808) teen girls gave birth; ten years later only 456 teen girls gave birth indicating a 56% decline in teen birth rates.

The bad news is that among San Francisco girls 27% of public high school girls and 20% of public middle school girls reported harassment directed at their weight, size or physical appearance.

These are just two of the findings from the recently released report, A Report on Girls in San Francisco: Benchmarks for the Future. The Commission and Department on the Status of Women, the Youth Commission and Supervisors Fiona Ma and Sophia Maxwell are holding a hearing on the report and its findings on Wednesday, October 29th, 2003 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in City Hall, Room 250.

The focus of the hearing is to define benchmarks for girls in the areas of health, education, poverty, violence and juvenile justice. We will highlight both current best practices in areas where the report indicates girls appear to be doing well and to solicit suggestions for effective programs in areas where girls appear to have unfulfilled needs. We will utilize the findings in an effort to advocate for programs that help girls succeed.

The full report, including graphs and sources of information can be downloaded or viewed on our website at www.sfgov.org/dow. If you have any questions or would like to speak at the hearing please feel free to contact Ann Lehman or Carol Sacco at 415-252-2570.

BLACK INFANT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Black Infant Health Improvement Program (Bi-Hip) is a free program that provides supportive services to pregnant and parenting African American women with children up to 2 years of age. If you or someone you know is a woman that needs help finding a doctor, getting to appointments, connecting to community resources, preparing for a new baby, or just someone to talk to, please call Bi-Hip at (415) 671-0214.

INVITATION FOR BIDS - NEW VOTING SYSTEM

Bids due 5:00 pm December 8, 2003

The San Francisco Department of Elections is seeking proposals for a new voting system to collect, count, tabulate and report votes for all elections held in the City and County of San Francisco. The New System will be either an optical scan voting system or a system that combines optical scan technology with touchscreen voting technology. The New System must include the capability to count and tabulate ranked-choice ballots and otherwise conduct instant run-off voting as required by the San Francisco Charter. The successful proposer must supply all hardware and software, maintaining the New System, and all necessary installation, programming, integration, testing, maintenance, support, training, delivery and storage services during the term of the Final Agreement. The successful Proposer must also be responsible for obtaining all applicable Federal and State certifications and approvals for the New System in time for implementation of the New System for the November 2004 election. A mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held November 14, 2003 at 1:00 pm PST, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm 421, San Francisco CA 94102. 415-554-4375

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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION

CASE NUMBER: FLS-92-048472

Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by petitioner, and it satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee Freddy Guardado, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: NOW, on motion of Angela Hodgson, Petitioner(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in The Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication. Charlotte Walter Woolard, Judge of the Superior Court.

OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540987

In the Matter of the Application of Aujahnae Anyia Quarles for change of name. The application of Aujahnae Anyia Quarles for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Aujahnae Anyia Quarles has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Aujahnae Anyia Glenn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of January at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 16, 23, 30 NOV. 6, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270533-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: "El Faro" 82 First Street San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by an husband and wife, signed Alfredo Olguin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/08/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003.

OCT. 16, 23, 30 NOV. 6 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. RG03120354

In the Matter of the Application of Sheri Albertha Storey for change of Name. The application of Sheri Albertha Storey for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that heri Albertha Storey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Shay Storey Skye. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 4 on the 5th day of December at 11:20am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 16, 23, 30 NOV. 6, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-541007

In the Matter of the Application of Jonathon Alan Ford for change of Name. The application of Jonathon Alan Ford for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jonathon Alan Ford has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jonathon McClain Winters Ford. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 18 day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 23, 30 NOV. 6, 13 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270827-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cicli's 101 Spear Street, B-5 San Francisco, Ca. 94105 This business is conducted by an individual signed Justino Matamoros. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/20/2003.

OCT. 23, 30 NOV. 6, 13 2003

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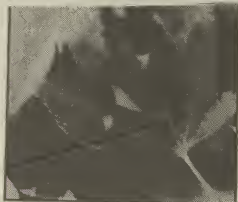
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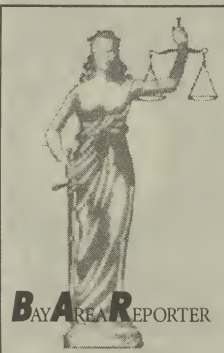
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STATEMENT FILE 0270664-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lilbebo 659 Ashbury Street San Francisco, Ca. 94117 This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel C. McCracken The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/13/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/14/03.

OCT. 23,30, NOV6,13 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270642-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bears of San Francisco, BOSF, International Bear Rendezvous, IBR, Mr. IBR Bear Contest/Title, Mr. IBR Grizzly Bear Contest/Title, Mr. IBR Daddy Bear Contest/Title and Mr. IBR Bear Cub Contest/Title 584 Castro #266 San Francisco, Ca. 94114 This business is conducted by a corporation signed Darwin Bebo, Secretary. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04/07/1994. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/14/03.

OCT. 23,30, NOV6,13 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270225-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Silver Revolution 1220 Bowdoin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134 This business is conducted by an individual signed Kee Jon Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 09/24/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/25/03.

OCT. 23,30, NOV6,13 2003



LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0270805-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ProGay Jobs II 2358 Market Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114 This business is conducted by a general partnership signed David Bach. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/16/2003 The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/20/2003.

OCT. 23,30, NOV6,13 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270789-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: NPI Investors, 479 Fair Oaks #4 San Francisco, Ca. 94110 This business is conducted by a Husband and wife signed Renee Schabale and James K. Lewis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/20/2003 The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/17/2003.

OCT. 23,30, NOV6,13 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270790-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wealth Watchers, 479 Fair Oaks #4 San Francisco, Ca. 94110 This business is conducted by a Husband and wife signed Renee Schabale and James K. Lewis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/20/2003 The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/17/2003.

OCT. 23,30, NOV6,13 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0270209-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Aquarius Records 1055 Valencia Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110 This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Jeremiah Allan Havelock Horrocks and Andrew Michael Connors. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/23/2003.

OCT. 23,30, NOV6,13 2003

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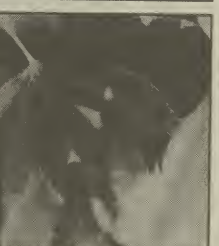
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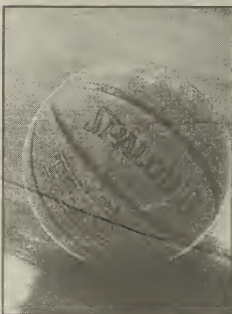
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Plathological depression
Gwyneth Paltrow stars as suicidally depressed poet Sylvia Plath in 'Sylvia.'

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Cookin' on all burners
In the TV kitchen with Naked Chef Jamie Oliver.

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Holmes, sweet Holmes
'Pieces of April' indie star Katie Holmes eats sweets.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 33 • No. 43 • 23 October 2003

Broadway babies and a tepid cat

Three high-profile shows in the Big Apple

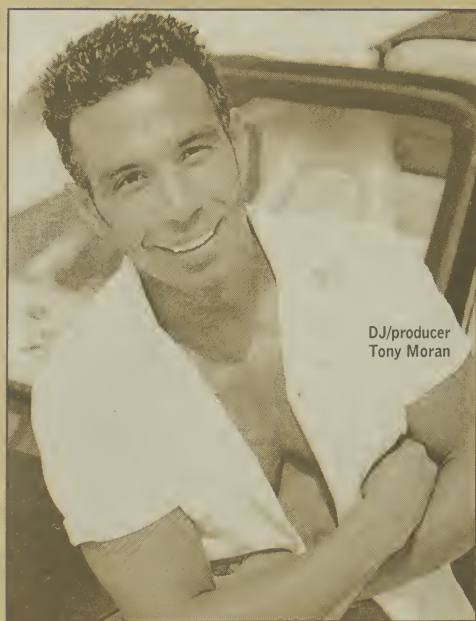
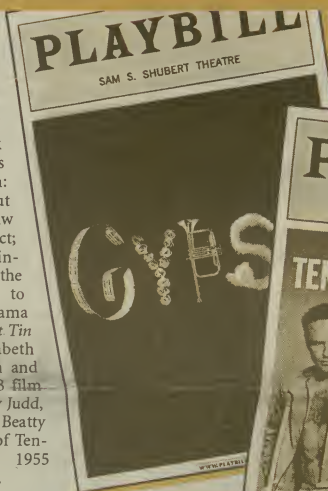


by Tavo Amador

Autumnal nostalgia is potent, and I felt lots of it in New York City recently. Three shows resonated with my youth: *The Boy from Oz*, about Peter Allen, whom I saw opening Judy Garland's act; *Gypsy*, comparing the indelible Ethel Merman in the original production to Bernadette Peters' Mama Rose; and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, recalling Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman and Burl Ives in the 1958 film while watching Ashley Judd, Jason Patric, and Ned Beatty in the latest revival of Tennessee Williams' 1955 Pulitzer Prize winner.

In truth, Allen, then part of the bogus Allen Brothers, made no impression while warming audiences up for Garland in the mid-'60s. It was later that he became a successful song-and-dance man and composer. Australian Hugh Jackman is amazing as Allen, a fellow Aussie from Oz, as they call the land Down Under. The show uses Allen's songs to convey major events in his life, from his lonely childhood with a loving mother and an abusive, alcoholic father until his death from AIDS in '92 at age 48. In-between he was "discovered" by the witty and de-

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DJ/producer
Tony Moran

Hella fun ball

Kevin Aviance and DJ Tony Moran at Hellball 7

by Mark Mardon

Tony Moran, the New York City-based DJ/producer who will serve as master of the turntables and CD spinners at this year's *Hellball 7: El Dorado, City of Gold*, credits his freestyle background for the pop sensibility he incorporates into his music. He eschews a strict underground house mentality, preferring to impart his remixes and productions with hook-laden commercial appeal. He measures a successful dance floor not just by the number of hands in the air, but by how many fans are singing along.

"I like to provide a lot of positive energy," Moran says. "I'm into the tribal, but not into doing super-long songs, and I use lots of vocals. A lot of the music I play is sensual and sexual. I totally know how to get the hormones flowing."

That's exactly what circuitgoers seek these days, and they're a demanding crowd. The men (mostly) who attend circuit events of Hellball magnitude want

them to flow smoothly and to offer up lots of sizzle. The DJs and performers all have to be pros who know how to keep the masses moving. Nonstop beats and soaring vocals are keys to ultimate dancefloor nirvana.

"What separates me from other DJs is I do it my own way," boasts Moran. "I can play tribal, house, vocals. Personally, I won't play records that are too syrupy. I will play instrumental tracks, hard beats. When you put it in the blender, it will make you want to sweat."

For his patrons on the dancefloor, adds Moran, "I create musical snapshots," so that later they can reflect on key moments when certain songs made the night unforgettable.

One of those moments will certainly come at *Hellball 7* when Moran segues into the night's live act. It's up to him to set the stage for the entrance of Emerge recording artist Kevin Aviance, who has five Top 10 *Billboard* hits under his belt, including last summer's post-millennial club anthem "Alive." Aviance has

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Burrow into our bagful of tricks

Treat yourself to benefits and installations

by Roberto Friedman

Late October in San Francisco is that delightful time of the year when the tricks and treats keep coming — and there's no need to wipe up afterward! This Saturday night, Oct. 25, local talents P.A. Cooley and Auntie



P.A. Cooley hosts Tricks.

Dru co-host *Treats and Tricks*, a variety spectacular to benefit Theatre Rhinoceros at the SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. The line-up includes singer Leigh Crow, drag band Acid Housewife, faux drag artist Anita Cocktail, thespian wonders Matthew Martin and Mark Sargeant, and size-inclusive hip-hop group the Phat Fly Girls. That's phantastic! Treats begin at 7 p.m., tricks kick off at 8 p.m. For tix (\$15-20) and info: (415) 861-5079 or therhino.org.

Down South of Market way at SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St., the annual Day of the Dead exhibit *Bringing Light to the Darkness*, featuring traditional altars and contemporary art installations, is dedicated by curator René Yañez to the death of the California Arts Council. Yañez says the show explores ways to bring light to the bleak times we live in. "The darkness is the war, occupation in Iraq, the murders in Juarez, the violence directed at children and the cutbacks to the arts." Yowza, you're scarin' us!

Among the installations: a remembrance of US personnel and Iraqi citizens who have died in the Iraqi war so far; a commemoration of those murdered by anti-

gay violence, including a tribute to Gwen Araujo; and an altar by Elaine Katzenberger, Kiki Cynthia Wallis and Monica Sanchez honoring late poet and AIDS activist Ronnie Burk. Through Nov. 2. Gallery hours are Tues.-Sun., Noon-5 p.m. Info: (415) 863-1414, somarts.org.

All the nudes

Portrait painter Kurt Kauper is that rare visionary artist who has decided to base his entire career on creating nude studies in oils of the late film star Cary Grant. "You don't generally see male icons nude," Kauper admitted to *Variety's* "New in Town" column. Dynasty producer Douglas Cramer wasn't bound by any notions of good taste when he snapped up a set of large-scale Grant nudes to furnish his farmhouse. Kauper models his Cary-in-the-buff after publicity photos that featured the suave movie star in various states of undress.



Cary Grant in the altogether.

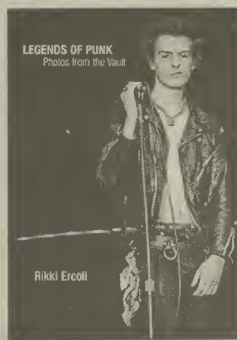
"I know that Grant himself wouldn't have appreciated them, and I doubt the [Grant] family will appreciate them," Kauper conceded. "But as an artist, I can't let that hold me back."

He invokes as inspiration a famous painting by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres which depicts Napoleon ascending to heaven in the nude. "It was an attempt to immortalize a male icon by painting him in the nude, which you certainly don't see anymore." Well, you rarely saw six-pack abs on male icons in classic history paintings, and you probably never saw them on '30s movie stars, either. But they're hardly more shocking than the close-cropped triangle of pubic bush that never made it into any MGM publicity still we know of.

Even more alarming is the list of those blessed by fame whom Kauper reportedly considered immortalizing in nude portraiture before settling on Grant — namely Tiger Woods, Walt Disney and the President of Heart and Soul himself, Bill Clinton. We're guessing he's saving nudie portraits of the latter two persons for that stage in his career when he wants to induce coronary attacks in his coterie of collectors.

Punk spunk

SF rock photog Rikki Ercoli is



between hard covers at last in *Legends of Punk, Photos from the Vault* (Manic D Press), filled with his candid shots of punk legends on and back stage. Coverboy Sid Vicious loved the camera and gives good moue; a young Billy Idol looks fierce; and Jello Biafra gives extreme close-up.

As much fun as the actual snaps are Ercoli's notes on the photos. Backstage with "Grandma" Edith Massey, he finds her crying, asks her what's wrong. "She told me that everyone in the audience was gay. I was kinda shocked and asked, 'But Edie, what's wrong with that? Gay people love you, too.'" That's what's wrong with that.



Gay people love Edith Massey!

We're glad to hear that punk's back in style. To hear the Punk Rock Orchestra last weekend in the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, part of *Turning Ten* opening night, do glorious big-band arrangements of Siouxsie and the Banshees and Suicidal Tendencies classics was to revisit our tender youth.

Hairdresser on fire

Sighted at the Vox vodka/*Out* magazine party for design awardees Worldwide design team Greg Henson and Jeff Brooks last week in the Four Seasons Hotel: drag deity Juanita More, former Empress Chablis, and a full suite of comely male models with huge biceps who continually made and remade up a bed with drapes and throw-pillows just so.

Out on the hotel's veranda terrace, Out There got up-close and personal with the gay hairdresser behind possibly the most famous haircut in town, the slicked-back coif on mayoral candidate You Know Who. Barber of da ville Edgardo said that when his pic ran in that absurd free fashion rag (our words, not his) with his arms around The Candidate, single young women flocked to his salon in supplication, in the apparently futile hopes that he would pass their phone numbers on to The Haircut. If this is so, think what a mention in Out There will net! (Probably a lawsuit, for us.) PS: His most famous clients are not aspiring pals, but show-biz legends J. Lo and Cher. But can they get the homeless off the streets? ▼

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THEATRE

It's an LGBT world after all

'Worse than Chocolate' is sweet at Theatre Rhino

by Richard Dodds

Worse than *Chocolate* may be the first stage comedy to give significant representation to all the letters in LGBT. But the Theatre Rhino premiere isn't an ecumenical effort at inclusion. The situations can get startlingly specific, yet the laughs come abundantly because the human comedy behind the specifics is at once novel, familiar and honest.

The setting is the "boiler room" of a large law firm where overworked word processors bond into a strange little family hidden away like a crazy uncle in the attic. While dealing with office politics, including a do-nothing

supervisor's decision to convert to ridiculed Microsoft Word with its talking paperclip, these four keyboard musketeers share the complexities of their personal lives.

Sex, love, and romance are at the top of the list, especially for Alex, a lesbian still smarting from a relationship that abruptly ended when her partner decided she was straight after all. Playwright Jaeson Post plays this muttering wit, a character inspired by his own work adventures when he was still a she. Post is currently undergoing transition from female to male, a fact that has required script adjustments since a workshop production last year.

Post, as playwright, is eager to lead his characters into politically

incorrect discussions of gender and sexuality. Conveniently, there is a curious straight woman among the queers, who are happy to fill her in with their own takes on sexual subjects. What makes it work is the freshness of the dialogue, and the thought always to be found behind the wisecracks.

Much of the frank talk about lesbians is provided by Frankie, a big ol' dyke with a comic style akin to a melding of Ralph Cramden and Ed Norton. Liz Ryan is a delight in the role, and her casual brusqueness plays well against the more reserved Alex, created with quiet intensity by Post.

Jeffrey Hartgraves, also the director, smoothly plays the sarcastic queen among the word processors.

Sina Eiden is charming as the wide-eyed straight female of the quartet, while Leon Acord is just oily enough as their Peter-Principled supervisor. Maryssa Wanlass is attractively cunning as the unsnobby lawyer who has her eyes fixed on Alex.

The entire cast, and notably the group above, understand the unstrained naturalism required by Post's script. So does Hartgraves, as director, whose measured hand helps mold the bounty of laughter. The second act, with its subplot about a business scandal, doesn't have quite the verve of the first. But put together, you still have a comedy that finds new ways to be funny. ▼



Jaeson Post plays the lesbian Alex.

Worse than Chocolate will run at Theatre Rhinoceros through Nov. 8. Tickets (\$15-\$25): 861-5079, therhino.org.



Drake finds his inner Dracula.

'Drakula' dragnet

by Richard Dodds

David Drake is a jack of many voices but, in *Son of Dracula*, the master of only one. That is his father, a tightly wound, emotionally repressed version of the genially animated Drake. When this 90-minute solo show focuses on the constrained relationship between father and son, there is a spacious subtlety that speaks even when things go unsaid.

Unfortunately, most of *Son of*

Dracula, now at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, is populated with characters that don't ring so true. The warning flags go up in the first moments when Drake, whose legal is David Drakula Jr., confronts an airline agent over the different names on his documents. Drake turns the agent into a cliché of urban sass, neither original nor believable enough to score many laughs.

And so it goes as Drake travels to a Dracula convention in Roma-

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Star-crossed lovers at the symphony

MTT, SF Symphony treat us to Berlioz's 'Romeo et Juliette'

by Philip Campbell

The plays of William Shakespeare have proved an invaluable source of inspiration to many composers. *Othello*, *Macbeth*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* have all spawned musical masterpieces, but the tragic tale of *Romeo and Juliet* has stimulated more imaginations than all of the others combined.

Recent performances by the San Francisco Symphony of Hector Berlioz's towering Dramatic Symphony *Romeo et Juliette* showed what intense power the story still possesses. It also demonstrated Michael Tilson Thomas' dazzling flair for the theatrical.

Berlioz had a brilliant and innovative gift for symphonic writing, but the great choral and orchestral music of *Romeo et Juliette* is, arguably, his most affecting. In this, his bicentennial year, it is fitting the SFS should choose such a work for celebration.

Everything conspired to create a well nigh perfect performance. Except, of course, the cellular phone that rang during the Friday night concert. If looks could kill, MTT would be up on charges, but he forged ahead with no major harm to the continuity.

Vance George's Symphony Chorus made a magnificent contribution throughout the evening, concise and soberly oratorical for

the Introduction and Prologue, and thrillingly dramatic in the Finale. After 21 years on the job, George has produced an ensemble worthy of comparison with the Chicago Symphony Chorus during its glory years under Margaret Hillis.

The soloists were an impressive team as well. Finnish mezzo-soprano Monica Groop returned to Davies after her appearances last March in Bach and Schubert, looking very striking and sound-

vorite Samuel Ramey justifiably almost stole the show singing Friar Laurence's Recitative and Aria and the Oath of Reconciliation. Perhaps, his darkly sonorous bass shows tiny signs of fraying; yet he can still ride over the orchestra and chorus with ease. His imposing looks (not unlike some rather dignified and well-dressed Country-Western singer) and undeniable star quality added greatly to the dramatic thrust of the performance.

The great love scene of 'Romeo et Juliette' benefited from MTT's fresh and probing attitude, and has rarely sounded so beautiful.

ing just right. Her voice has the requisite richness, but there is a pleasing steely edge that seems to outline the words. Her French pronunciation was flawless.

Lyrical tenor Matthew Polenzani, making his SFS debut, had less to do, but he still made a strong impression. He has made many appearances at the Metropolitan Opera, and his ability to fill that vast house stood him in good stead here. Polenzani makes his San Francisco Opera debut as Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville* this November.

Stalwart veteran and local fa-

Unsurprisingly, the biggest star of the evening remained none other than MTT. He has proven himself with Berlioz in a good but not definitive *Symphonie fantastique* under the orchestra's old contract with BMG/RCA Red Seal. That disc, revealingly, includes excerpts from the obscure *Lelio*: evidence that Tilson Thomas is all about adventure and discovery.

The great love scene of *Romeo et Juliette* benefited from the conductor's fresh and probing attitude. The hesitancy and impassioned longing of the star-crossed

pair has rarely sounded so intensely beautiful. The other great orchestral set pieces, notably the exciting Festivity at the Capulets, came off uncommonly well.

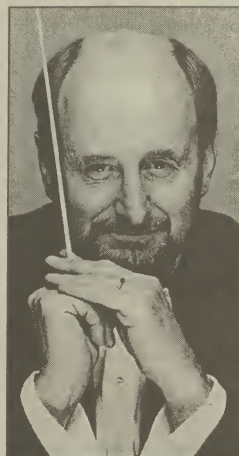
It is a sin and a shame that this performance will not be released on disc. The orchestra is committed to its Mahler cycle, but they really should consider doing something with the performance tapes of subscription concerts that are broadcast on KDFC-FM on Tuesday nights.

Center stage

Last week brought one of the orchestra's best-known and admired players to center stage for a duo concerto performance. Nadya Tichman, Associate Concertmaster and occupant of the SFS Foundation Chair since 1990 and member of the orchestra since '80, appeared with pianist Orli Shoham.

Orli, younger sister of violinist Gil Shoham, was making her Davies debut in the first SFS performances of Mendelssohn's Concerto in D minor for Violin and Piano. Shocking that it has taken so long for the charming and virtuosic work to appear here, but then, so much music and so little time, etc.

Both soloists made a happy meal of the fiendishly difficult score. If the chamber textures of the piece were buried under a rather heavy-handed approach from guest conductor Sir Roger



Sir Roger Norrington guested.

Norrington, Tichman and Shoham responded with sharply defined and brilliant playing.

Norrington used to be known for his fleet and historically informed interpretations, but I have always found him to be a rather unsmiling stylist. His Mendelssohn lacked a certain wit, but the soloists were undeterred. Tichman has a slightly sharp tone that was balanced nicely by Shoham's big and rich performance, and the audience gave a hearty ovation. ▼

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FILM

Foreign intrigue in fiction and fact

'The Revolution Will Not Be Televised' and 'Gasoline' open Friday

by David Lamble

An Irish filmmaking duo had the kind of luck that trumps talent any day. Their cameras were rolling on April 12, 2002, when rightist opponents of Venezuela's democratically elected president, Hugo Chavez, tried to disguise a military coup as a populist uprising, kidnapping the charismatic former general and using their grip on the country's privately run media to doctor video footage, making it appear that supporters of Chavez had fired on a peaceful crowd of demonstrators, thus justifying a military takeover of the Presidential palace.

Early on, Kim Bartley and Donnacha O'Brian's *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*, at the Castro Oct. 24-30, looks like a puff piece on Chavez's plan to seize the nationalized oil industry



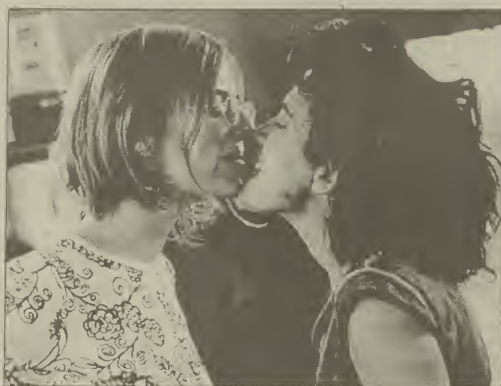
Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez

to pay for a "Bolivarian" (after independence hero Simon Bolivar) revolution to benefit the estimated 80% of the population left out of oil-driven prosperity.

Chavez, a burly ex-soldier with

the build and manner of a prizefighter, displays an almost erotic connection with his supporters. Barely literate peasants pass notes for him to read. He hugs the young men in his palace guard and talks grandly with aides about the threat of American-sponsored globalization. Once the coup begins, ideology flies out the door, and Chavez's survival becomes the survival of Venezuelan democracy. The filmmakers cover pro- and anti-Chavez meetings. In one scene, a group of wealthy women is urged to spy on their servants and learn how to use firearms.

As the army prepares to bomb the palace, Chavez is arrested, his cabinet striped of power and a sham coup regime installed. Bartley and O'Brian use air checks of rightist TV stations to dramatize the motives and paranoia of the oligarchs who took the country's national channel off the air, the



Lesbian heroines make kissy in Italian thrill-ride road movie *Gasoline*.

only station with news fair to Chavez. A film that began as a real-life remake of Costa-Gavras' *Z* turns into a Venezuelan version of *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. We witness the good guys using Constitutional methods, chutzpah and the support of a sexy group of young palace soldiers to restore the democratically elected President and avert a bloody civil war. A rant by Sen. Jesse Helms hints at a secret American role in the coup.

Spitfire kiss

In *Gasoline*, a highly-charged thrill-ride of a movie that unfolds on an Italian interstate highway, a

well-dressed woman stops by a drive-in cafe/gas station with an envelope full of lira and a cigarette lighter that looks suspiciously like a loaded pistol. We smell trouble when the woman (Mariella Valentini) peeps through the Venetian blinds of the restaurant and spies a dark-haired spitfire kissing a timid blonde. In a matter of moments, the older woman will be lying dead, and our lesbian heroines will spend the rest of the movie figuring out what to do with her body.

The young couple is so odd that we sense they were yoked together by sex. Stella (Maya Sansa)

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Life in the bell jar

Gwyneth Paltrow stars as 'Sylvia' Plath

by Will Shank

If the adjective "Plathian" is not standard jargon in the Dictionary of American Regional English, it could be. So closely is the name of writer Sylvia Plath associated with suicidal depression that she defines a category of mental illness in the literary psyche. It is, therefore, a somewhat surprising turn of events that her life could be viewed as entertainment of any sort. And as *Sylvia*, a major motion picture directed by Christine Jeffs and starring the perennially perky Gwyneth Paltrow? A stretch, you must be thinking.

It is indeed a stretch for the actress, but she meets the challenge admirably. Her descent from optimistic Smith undergrad to paranoid housewife is a marvel to behold, a startling achievement from the woman who was willing to take a role in *Shallow Hal* not too long ago. If the beautiful Paltrow does not succeed in looking plain, she does distract us by affecting an interesting monotone à la Dorothy Parker, which gives her the same sort of Long Island lockjaw as Jennifer Jason Leigh in *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle*. (The real Plath was from Massachusetts.)

But for the audience, the difficulty inherent in watching two hours' worth of Paltrow's portrayal of the tragic Plath is that, first of all, you are almost certainly familiar with the ending, if you know Plath or her work. (Otherwise, who would be attracted to this movie?) Second, as with other antagonistic protagonists (think of Ed Harris as Jackson Pollock), the lead character is fairly clearly insane from the first reel. In the case of Sylvia, she bites Ted Hughes on the cheek so aggressively, after their first romantic jitterbug, that she draws blood, along with an angered expression of disbelief, from her make-out partner.

Most of the dramatic tension in the first half of *Sylvia* comes from the competition between a couple in the same profession. But this is definitely not *A Star is Born*.



Descent into paranoia: Paltrow

The film is as dark as a Devonshire winter, the scenario wherein much of the action plays out. There is little relief from any of the film's creative participants, including composer Gabriel Yared (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*), who provides music for the wedding service of the happy couple that sounds like a funeral dirge. There is only one real laugh in the entire screenplay, two-thirds of the way through, at the expense of the English view of Canadians.

No judgments

Ted Hughes is broodingly portrayed by Daniel Craig, who was the wrong-side-of-the-tracks lover of artist Francis Bacon in *Love is the Devil*, and more recently portrayed a really bad guy, Paul Newman's son, in *The Road to Perdition*. If his deep baritone often swallows Hughes' words, pronounced in a difficult-to-understand Yorkshire brogue, Craig brings the charisma of the eventual Poet Laureate of Great Britain effectively to the screen. In real life, Hughes, who died in 1998, was frequently blamed for Plath's emotional troubles. But the screenplay of *Sylvia* bends over backwards not to judge either half of the battling couple, so it is difficult to determine if Hughes as husband was indeed a philandering pig or the long-suffering victim of a psychotic wife. The dia-

logue by John Brownlow does have some fine moments, such as one in which a fuming Plath, perceiving herself betrayed by a

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Suzan-Lori Parks goes to the dogs

Curran Theatre hosts Prize-winning 'Topdog/Underdog'

by Richard Dodds

The Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright was making monkey sounds in the hotel lobby. "Eee eee eee eee," said Suzan-Lori Parks as she bobbed on a divan surrounded by potted plants.

The author of *Topdog/Underdog*, now at the Curran, began checking off her possible upcoming projects, including a screenplay for a Brad Pitt movie and a musical about the Harlem Globetrotters, when she was asked about a reported site-specific production of *Tarzan* she is working on for Disney.

"Lordy, you're joking, right? C'mon, I want to see the black-and-white," she said. The reporter rustled out an article from an LA daily that had her collaborating on the project with songwriter Phil Collins and playwright David Henry Hwang (*M. Butterfly*).

"That's so funny. Does that mean I get to go into the jungles of Africa? I guess Hwang would do Tarzan and I'd do Chee Chee or whatever the monkey's name is. It could be a cursing monkey. Or a signifying monkey. That's my role! Henry Louis Gates said to me, 'You are the signifying monkey.' And I think that's the best compliment anybody's ever paid me."

The signifying monkey, a figure born in African folklore, ac-

cording to Harvard scholar Gates, is variously a trickster, a verbal gymnast, a satirist particularly expressive with eyes and hands. If Parks, 40, does indeed encompass several of these traits, there is foremost the accomplished writer with a recent explosion of success.

The first big blast was the production of *Topdog/Underdog* at the New York Public Theatre in 2001. It moved to Broadway the next year, when Parks became the first black woman to win a Pulitzer Prize in drama. This year brought the publication of her first novel, the picaresque *Getting Mother's Body*, and her book-tour stop here was also an occasion to talk about the SF-bound play.

"When I wrote *Topdog*, it was a life-altering experience," Parks said. "Writing that play was so radically different and strange. It was like an extended vision until I finished the play. I wasn't on drugs or drinking because I don't do anything like that. I do yoga."

Penny arcade

In *Topdog*, two African-American brothers, abandoned by the parents who gave them the charged names of Lincoln and Booth, are on a march toward an seemingly inevitable conclusion. Along the way, we learn that Lincoln (Harold Perrineau in SF) had been a master of the three-card monte hustle before taking a mellower job at an arcade-shooting gallery, where he

poses, in white face, as his Presidential namesake. Booth (Larry Gilliard Jr.) wants his brother to teach him to throw cards so he can upgrade his career from shoplifting. The dynamics of these brothers, Parks said, transcend the specifics of their situations.

"I think it's a play about family, and anyone who has a family can relate," said Parks, who grew up on a series of Army bases. "Everyone says, 'Oh, I guess you had two brothers.' I didn't even have two uncles. I wasn't out on the streets. I didn't grow up in the projects. But they're people I know and care about."

Parks rejects that venerable piece of writer's wisdom that you should "write about what you know." "My question in all my writing is, 'Who are we really?' Are we this person we appear to be? Shakespeare was never a king, and as far as I know he was never a murderer, but he wrote brilliantly about kings and murderers."

Before her *Topdog/Underdog* breakthrough, Parks produced a series of well-regarded plays at smaller theaters. She wrote about a homeless woman caring for five children in *In the Blood*, a 19th-

century freak-show celebrity/slave in *Venus*, and a phone-sex operator in Spike Lee's film *Girl 6*. The former New Yorker now lives in Venice, CA with blues-musician husband Paul Oscher.

"A lot of people said when I started doing plays at the Public Theatre that I was selling out. And then when I did a play on Broadway, it was, 'Now she's obviously sold out for the money, attention, fame and glamour.' But I believe there are numerous ways one can be transgressive. Off-off-Broadway is one way, being on Broadway is another way to storm the barricades."

"I knew when I wrote *Topdog* that it came out of this strong need, and the response we got really made me feel, 'Yeah, they got it.' It wasn't, 'Now we have all the answers and can go home and feel good.' Everyone probably had a different reading on the play because it had more to do with what they brought into the theater."

Her New York follow-up was a contemporary variation on *The Scarlet Letter* that she titled *Fucking A*.

"I'm in my flow thing," Parks explained. "I'm on my road, like



Parks says she's in her flow thing.

an athlete, like Venus Williams. She feels that she's doing what she's supposed to be doing whether she wins or loses. When I start to think, 'Better change the title of the play so it will be more marketable,' then I'm not being attentive to the thing that is the cause of the flow." ▼

Topdog/Underdog will run at the Curran Theatre through Nov. 16. Tickets are \$35-\$68. Call 512-7770 or go to bestofbroadway-sf.com.

Sylvia

◀ previous page

protesting Hughes, spits out, "Fiction really isn't your gift, is it?"

It is also a pleasure to watch real-life mother-and-daughter Paltrow and Blythe Danner on-screen together. Danner's screen time as an aristocratic New England schoolteacher is disappointingly short, but she does get to deliver some zingers. "Most [suicides] want to be discovered. But she just crawled in a hole and waited to die," she tells her new son-in-law about his bride when the mother-in-law gets him alone at a party. Which brings up another problem with the character development. We are told repeatedly that Plath is suicidal, but except for the death of her father when she was nine, no other explanation of her condition is offered. Throughout the film, one

wants to cry out, "Get help!" but then there would be no movie. The real Plath did seek out professional guidance, and the screen version of her life allows her some small attempts, but most of the second half illustrates the pathetic condition of the helplessly depressed. And very artfully so. Both the director and cinematographer John Toon come from New Zealand commercials, and the setups of many scenes (Plath framed at far left by a just-erased chalkboard in her Smith College classroom) have a quiet beauty.

Well, what about the writing for which Plath is famous? Her writer's block is cleverly portrayed (she bakes endlessly instead of composing poetry), and her frustrations at publishers' rejections ring very true. But the beauty of her poetry and prose floats in and out only occasionally as the domestic break-up takes over the writers' lives. Finally, after a deci-

sive moment in the marriage, Plath hears her muse, and a beautiful scene ensues as she "transcribes" the words in her head which will become her famous Ariel poems.

Filmed on location in the UK, *Sylvia* is a very British kind of enterprise that reminded me of Emma Thompson's interpretation of painter Leonora Carrington. *Carrington* (1995) was about another difficult-to-love artist whose self-destruction was portrayed very painfully on film.

Will *Sylvia* find an audience? Time will tell. It's refreshing to see the fruition of the efforts of a film conceived principally by women; British producer Alison Owen, who was responsible for Cate Blanchett's *Elizabeth*, was the moving force that got *Sylvia* made. ▼

Opens Friday.

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Licking Krispy Kremes with Katie Holmes

She does punkish turn in Peter Hedges' 'Pieces of April'

by David Lamble

Sitting with actress Katie Holmes in a hotel suite whose wallpaper Louis XIV would have judged a tad ostentatious is one thing. Having her insist on reading my article from this newspaper, "Farewell to Dawson's Creek," while licking the ultra-sweet frosting from a Krispy Kreme donut from her fingers at the same time is another.

For a couple of years in the mid-'90s, LA casting directors were bowled over by a home

video recorded in what appeared to be a family rumpus room. A Toledo, Ohio Catholic schoolgirl read lines with her mother doing the boys' parts. *Dawson's Creek* creator Kevin Williamson recalls being "mesmerized" by a gamin-like screen presence who could embody all of society's insanely conflicting notions about what a virginal young girl should be without having to take her clothes off. Then-17-year-old Holmes' doe-eyed freshness came with just a hint of the tomboy.

Seven years, 128 *Dawson's* episodes and seven hot indie-film roles later, Holmes describes her pride in her first starring indie-film role, as April Burns, a girl whose punkish wild oats get her tossed out of the home ruled by an egocentric mother. Joy (Patricia Clarkson in the crown jewel of her four Sundance film roles this past year) is dying of cancer, and April has brazenly decided to do the one thing she's almost constitutionally incapable of doing: pre-

pare a Thanksgiving Day dinner for Mom and family, served up in the Manhattan walk-up flat she shares with her black boyfriend.

Pieces of April, written and directed by Peter Hedges, is that rare juggling act of a movie that provides two astonishing female roles for actors who implicitly play off each other without ever actually playing a scene together. Holmes acknowledges her initial fear that they might be making two separate movies that never meet. "I did spend a lot of the movie by myself, and it was very challenging to have Patty Clarkson play my Mom and not see how she was playing it. It just added that level of anxiety," Holmes adds that she was relieved there wasn't a huge scene between Joy and April at movie's end. "It's hard in life to have long scenes where you are really honest with your feelings."

Holmes and I had a moment when I brought up the pivotal time in the second season of *Dawson's Creek* when the show's cre-

ator, Kevin Williamson, came out and made one of the new core characters (Jack McPhee, portrayed by Kerr Smith) be ridiculed by a prissy male English teacher for writing a poem about another boy. Classmate Pacey (Joshua Jackson) came to Jack's rescue in an incendiary scene in which Pacey spat in the teacher's face.

Holmes says it was a heady time to be associated with the show. "The scene with the spitting was very true, very compelling, and so many people on the set were affected by it because it was heartbreaking. I just remember it was one of the times we all felt a lot of pride."

Last season's final *Dawson's* episode was wrenching for Holmes and her four castmates, who had spent the better part of five years hanging out in Wilmington, North Carolina, a shooting location stand-in for the fictional Capeside, Mass.

"There were many cases of art imitating life, and life imitating



Holmes: a hint of the tomboy

art. We don't need to go into detail, but the cool thing is that whenever anybody calls for the show, it's that amazing feeling in your heart, you just light up and think, 'Oh, I love that person! I know that person will have my back forever.'"

Pieces of April opens Friday.

Hellball 7

◀ Arts cover

spent the year touring the world, spreading "Alive" life-affirming message to people living in crisis and civil unrest, including in war-torn Israel.

"I'm an all-evening girl," says Aviance by phone from New York. "I'm a dancer, and I like to hang out. I'm a club queen, I love to dance. It's like my church."



Recording artist Kevin Aviance

Aviance is thrilled to be playing *Hellball 7*, and about his new album, *Entity*, which resonates with Aviance's sense of spirituality.

"The new album is about our experiences as citizens of the global society," he says. "I couldn't avoid addressing the current state of the world, but I also wanted to remain positive and creative and offer my fans an escape from what is, for some, a hard reality."

As for being an out gay artist, Aviance says, "I'm 35 now, not a 20-year-old queen at Trax in DC. It's the good times and bad times about gay life." The good thing, he says, is "we're not too stressed out about the heterosexual guys. We're more free. We can be flamboyant, extravagant, robust. Embrace it. Get used to it. It's our right. It's great we're liberated. We're powerful!"

"Gay spirit is walking in high heels in broad daylight. Wearing what I want to wear and getting respect. My song on the radio, talking about me having sex with another man. The Gay Pride flag should have a drag queen on it! If it wasn't for the drag queens, there wouldn't be a gay movement!"

Hellball 7, Sat., Oct. 25 at the Galleria in the Design Center. Info: hellball.org.

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Why must they flaunt it?

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Was there ever a more repulsive sight than the endless TV reruns of the glad-handing between *der Gropenführer* (aka Gov.-elect Schwarzenegger) and his fearless leader, President Bush, this week? It was a made-for-TV moment: an earnest meeting of the mindless. Those who embraced the Schwarzenegger run should count electoral college votes when they have trouble sleeping in the coming months.

Outside of California, Ahnold has dropped from the TV spotlight faster than a bad season premiere. The TV blitzkrieg that catapulted him into office (with a little help from the Dr. Strangelove coterie in Washington) ended abruptly. The TV critiques of the Gov.-elect have come not from the newsmagazines (*Hardball's* Chris Matthews said *der Gropenführer* should do a good job; has everyone conflated Ahnold with the Terminator?). They have come from late-night comedy, most notably the hilarious send-ups by Jimmy Kimmel and Conan

O'Brien. Conan has kept the ridiculousness of the election front-and-center in his comedy routine almost nightly, including some of the most ludicrous of Schwarzenegger's film clips. It doesn't, however, mitigate our huge disappointment in former liberal voices prior to their *Triumph of the Willing* indoctrination in the latest California cult who jumped on-board the Ahnold wagon, like Rob Lowe and Martin Sheen. Those two not only play characters of tremendous integrity in the TV morality wasteland, but are people of integrity in real life. As the old *Saturday Night Live* sketch says, "What the hell happened?"

The same might be queried of the new TV season. Three weeks in, and already shows are being moved around to jockey for more amenable time slots to assuage failing ratings. Have the powers-that-be considered that better shows might bring better ratings? Just last column, we were applauding NBC for finally picking a time-slot that worked for the excellent *Boomtown*. Now it's MIA again. Why? It works—put it back on Fridays and let it glean a following.

And why is the insultingly bad *It's All Relative* still on the air with its silly lines like "I bet even gay people think you're gay!" (What does that mean?) Memo to ABC: sitcoms are supposed to be funny, and gay doesn't presuppose jolly.

On the other hand, *Will & Grace* this season has been funnier than it has ever been. Megan Mulally has to be the most hilarious woman on TV. Laura Kightlinger (now at the writing and producing helm of *W&G*), one of the best stand-up comedienne we've ever seen, has brought this show back from its last lackluster season into high hilarity. It is once again pants-pissingly funny. We loved the episode where Karen reveals she hates Grace's husband, Leo (Harry Connick, Jr.), whom we have loathed since his inception as a character two seasons ago. Spectacular.

Not spectacular was the stint by the Fab Five on the dreadful *Good Morning, Miami*. NBC must realize that when even the Fab Five fall flat on a show, it's done for. All that's left is the burial.

Naked passion

We have complained heartily over the years in this column about Pay TV. We hate the whole idea of it. Cable is just another word for gouging the TV viewer. But we have to admit we have been lured several times this season by new offerings and are now truly, madly, deeply in love with *The Naked Chef*.



Touch o' the East End: Oliver.

We know Jamie Oliver isn't gay, even though he has more than a little touch of the East End hustler about him with his tousled blond hair, full lips and charming lisp. But he is definitely our pin-up boy of the season, and we can't get enough of him and *Jamie's Kitchen*, the absolute best Reality TV series this season.

For those of you who don't watch the Food Network (which is better than porn most nights), here's the capsule: Oliver is an up-and-coming London chef, a tough from the East End who scrounged his way up the food ladder into restaurant stardom in the country that had to pillage the world for good food. His fabulous and simple cuisine has made him a deserving star. His fab personality and integrity have won the hearts of viewers.

Oliver was on *Letterman* last week dishing up info on his show. Each season he takes 15 downtrodden, out-of-work and on-the-skids London kids and turns them into chefs. The program is called *Cheeky Chops* and the restaurant connected with it is Fifteen (for the number of kids in the program). Oliver does all this with his own money (he sank "2 million quid" into its inception and plans to broaden it outside England soon), and the proceeds from his restaurant go to charity. As Oliver put it, with all the no-frills charm that makes him so delightful and fresh, "I wanted to give something back."

Since the Food Network began airing the reality series, calls for reservations at his restaurants have gone as high as 5,000 a day. Oliver told *Letterman* he recently had to turn down Bill Clinton because the restaurant was booked months in advance.

If you haven't seen either show, watch. Oliver's too adorable. And with *der Gropenführer* in your

backyard, you'll need an infusion of integrity and charm. Oliver is it.

Tiger by the tail

Oprah brought us an update on Siegfried and Roy last week, an interview with Siegfried about his partner's life-threatening accident with one of their tigers during their act two weeks ago in Las Vegas. The tiger act is the biggest act in Las Vegas history, and the two performed six days a week.



Pussy, Siegfried and Roy: moving

It was a very poignant interview from one of the gayest entertainers since Liberace. Siegfried's description of holding Roy's hand and sitting by his bedside was very moving. The two have been together for over 40 years, and while they have been the butt of many a joke about their lifestyle, we have always enjoyed their particular brand of sequined gayness. We echo *Oprah* in her wish for Roy's recovery.

Speaking of gayness, our sources at *All My Children* tell us that November sweeps will put Bianca's storyline sizzingly front burner (not that it's had a moment in the background since May sweeps). Last week saw Bianca and Lena attempting to reconcile but not quite making it. Bianca planned to reveal that she had changed her mind when she went for the abortion, and decided to have the baby of her rapist, Michael Cambias, who has since been murdered, possibly by her mother, her sister or even Lena (the mystery is still evolving). Unfortunately for these star-crossed lovers, Lena presumed that Bianca was trying to tell her about the abortion and said it was okay, that it was the only thing she could have done, abort her rapist's baby. Bianca fled in tears.

Our sources say that head writer Megan McTavish has big plans for Bianca and Lena come November. *Soap Opera Digest* still puts Bianca and Lena as the fans' favorite couple on AMC. We ache to see the lesbian lovers reunited, and we hope Bianca moving in with former love Maggie won't throw a wrench into the works. It all seems a little like a soap opera. Oh right, it is. Stay tuned. ▼



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Gasoline

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is short and prone to play with fire. From a certain angle, her lover Lenni (Regina Orioli) could be mistaken for a teenage boy. Moments before she becomes an inanimate object, Lenni's mother snarls at her daughter, "Do those lesbian eyeglasses let you see the shit you've landed in?"

Stella and Lenni drive off into the night, dropping Mama off at the town dump. All the while,

Lenni hears the voice that haunted her childhood: "Cowardly lesbian gold-digging mother-killers."

While one is tempted to link *Gasoline* with *Thelma & Louise*, director Monica Stambrini and her young cast insist that their models were Peter Jackson's *Heavenly Creatures* and Kimberly Pierce's *Boys Don't Cry*. In the former, two young women's complex union climaxes in matricide; in the latter, a young female couple becomes all the more luminous as they fail to outrun their fate.

Based on a popular Italian novel, *Gasoline's* transfer to the screen reportedly meant a toning down of its lesbian sexual heat, while the murder of Lenni's Mama, intentional in the book, is now accidental. Stambrini gives a seriously American pop feel to the movie's vivid road culture, reflecting her Mountain View childhood, while giving a very Italian and implicitly radical-lesbian slant to the sexy creeps who terrorize Stella and Lenni through the nighttime landscape. *Opens Friday.* ▼

MUSIC

Threesome from quartet

Kronos releases CD singles on Nonesuch

by Michael McDonagh

Music should inspire, otherwise what's the point? Every sensitive or aware person knows that we live in a dark time with precious few if any answers, other than to look within, which is what art has always done. The San Francisco-based Kronos Quartet live at the nerve and heart center of our time. Sensitive and deeply aware musicians, they've frequently embraced CD projects like *Winter Was Hard* (1988) and *Night Prayers* (1994) which have explored the dark or inward side of human experience; and their performances on these and other equally serious CDs have always been inspired.



Kronos' latest trio of CD singles on Nonesuch is pretty inward stuff. You can't get much more interior than Alban Berg's *Lyric Suite* (1926), which seems to bear out Virgil Thomson's contention that "the dead do not rest easy in Vienna." Though Berg was obviously very much alive when he wrote it, the quartet still vibrates with the intensity of a life-and-death struggle: the composer's eight-day affair with Hanna Fuchs-Robettin, when both were

in long-term marriages. Being a good though worldly Catholic, the composer experienced both rapture and pain.

The suite begins with the kind of jovial and very fractured waltz that the New Vienna School specialized in. But things get quickly out of hand: the andante has a flickering amorosness, the allegro headlong unisons and *sul ponticello* (on-the-bridge) effects. The two succeeding movements keep up the heat, until the final "largo desolato" appears, with Stefan George's German version of Baudelaire's "De Profundis Clamavi," sung here for the first time on CD, by soprano Dawn Upshaw. Composer and Berg expert George Perle reconstructed the composer's vocal part, which moves (as most affairs do) from rapture to pain, then equivocal silence. Kronos projects Berg's meticulous and passionate music with both power and point, and they get his infrequent but definitely sly wit, too.



Oakland-born composer Harry Partch is the odd man out. The gay composer invented many instruments, including one called the blow-boy, and a 43-note scale. His *U.S. Highball* (1944; revised '55), arranged for quartet by composer Ben Johnston, was originally

scored for voices and Partch inventions like the 72-string kithara and the chromolodeon. The text of Partch's account of his transcontinental train ride as a hobo is colorfully enacted by David Barron. Kronos backs him up with train rhythms and woozy slides. Though Partch was a highly imaginative composer, he's not to everyone's taste. Kronos play like true believers, and they project Partch's strange yet somehow evocative sounds with subtlety and panache.



Latvian composer Peteris Vasks' 1999 String Quartet #4 occupies an entirely different world. It's obviously the work of a European composer who's aware of the ancient tradition he's heir to, and one that he's expanding. It has obvious echoes of Shostakovich in the two toccata movements, and just maybe Schubert, in the long-lined melodies based on two Latvian folk songs which thread their way through the piece. The first tune, "Who were they, who sang?" is treated to a series of intense, almost seraphic variations in the third movement, "Chorale," while the final one, "Meditation," opens with keening sounds. The strings are muted throughout, with violin 1 (founder David Harrington) often playing floating, anguished harmonics and slides over a whirling ground of violin 2 (John Sherba), viola (Hank Dutt) and cello (Jennifer Culp). The quartet bears out Vasks' belief that "we are balanced on the edge of time's end... and to my mind, every honest composer searches for a way out of his time's crises. Towards affirmation, towards faith." His 4th does that with supreme and very touching grace, and the Kronos play like angels.

Kronos Quartet play *Sun Rings*, a multimedia collaboration with composer Terry Riley and NASA, part of SFJazz fest, Fri.-Sat., Oct. 24-25, 8 p.m. at Palace of Fine Arts Theatre. www.sfjazz.org.

Son of Drakula will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Oct. 26. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972.

Son of Drakula

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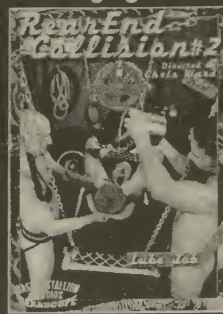
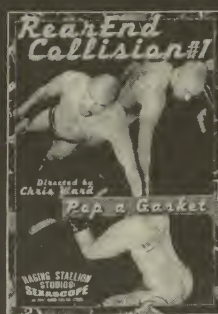
nia, where all the other participants are gross caricatures. He was there to research his roots, and also to gather material for a play that a Baltimore theater had commissioned, and we get to hear too much of a rather sober paper he read to the gathering. Then it's on to Croatia on the hunt for relatives, who, when found, aren't particularly interesting as theatrical characters.

Drake tells us that his interest in genealogy began as a way to find some connection with his father, who became a distant figure

after his parents divorced when he was 7. Turns out the old man wasn't very interested in looking back, yet the exchanges between Drakula senior and junior are the few places where the truth behind the project comes through.

Drake is best known for his 1992 monologue *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*, inspired by his early years as a gay man. *Son of Drakula* continues a personal saga that was probably more interesting as a first-person experience. ▼

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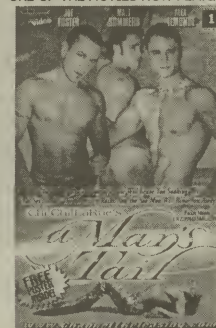
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'Instigator' magazine to the rescue!

Must-reading for the leather lifestyle

by Mister Marcus

Those of you who may be regular readers of this column know that I seldom do video, book or magazine reviews. But like many of you, I miss the days of yesteryear when *Drummer*, *Sandmutopia*, *Guardian* and various other leather/bdsm magazines were awaited each month with much anticipation.

In this technological age where people spend hours on end viewing mediocre leather-oriented web sites that charge monthly fees just to view hot guys you will never meet, it's a real drag to keep both hands on the keyboard, and don't you just miss that one hand reading?

The days of *Drummer* are over. A greedy corporate entity in Amsterdam literally destroyed an American-made institution, and with it the popular International Mr. *Drummer* contest. They robbed us of a classic magazine created John Embry with his stable of writers, artists and good people who lived the leather/bdsm lifestyle every moment of the day. Popular artists like the magnificent cartoonist A. Jay, the photography of Greg Day, the art of Joseph Bean, and fiction writers of the highest caliber. Excerpts from books by Jack Fritscher and Geoffrey Mains added to the leather pastiche we all loved.

Now if you pay an exorbitant fee, you can access the *Drummer* web site and come away unimpressed, unsatisfied and cheated.

Enter the 'Instigator'

Comes now *Instigator* Magazine, a Los Angeles-based start up with an in-your-face attitude about leather/bdsm and all the fetishes you've always heard of but never had clarified. There are stimulating articles that perk up your interest and serve as an impetus to enjoy your sexuality in whatever form it may manifest itself. Issue #3 is on the newsstands right now and at \$9.95 a pop, you will get your money's worth.



Chosen at the Mr. & Miss Gay SF Pageant last Saturday night, October 18, at the Swedish-American Hall: Miss Gay SF Diana McGuire, left, and Mr. Gay SF "Angle" Dunkelberger.

It's a glossy all-color magazine and anyone who refutes that statement should know that the non-color photos are in sepia-tone, an interesting concept that few magazines, gay or straight, rarely use.

Also inside are intriguing photo spreads, articles ranging from the downright filthy-mcnasty to coping with modern day technology, conduct on web sites, instant messaging, and spoofs on the outrageous religious right.

Issue #3 features the spectacular foot-fetish art of "Polanco" with gruff, sexy men with huge feet. There are no "pretty-boy" photos of gym bunnies posing in leather they would never wear in public. The magazine reeks of daring you to explore and be in your element with your kinks, the kinks of others and unabashed declarations of getting what you want when you cruise. And without pontificating on the community's latest danger, drug use, a non-judgmental guide to moderation in usage is offered for those who need drugs to enhance their lives. If you can't find the magazine at your favorite

bookstore, demand they carry it. You can't go wrong keeping up with the latest trends in modern day living as a leather/bdsm person. Interesting fiction, photo layouts, and informative issues are there. Not since the early days of *Drummer* has a magazine stirred up so much discussion. I highly recommend *Instigator*. As a magazine, it rates five stars in my book. Go out and buy your copy today. And you could say: "that's an order, Sir."

'Angle' Dunkelberger and Diana McGuire win Mr. & Miss Gay SF titles

The leather community coalesced with other segments of the city last Saturday night when the Imperial Court of San Francisco staged the annual Mr. and Miss Gay San Francisco contest at the Swedish-American Hall. An institution for some 30 years now, the title has been designated as "camp," but not for all the winners of the past.

MC'ing the event was former Mr. SF Leather Werner Tillinger and Toby of San Jose.

Put together by T.J. Istvan and Sheba, it was another celebration of a lifestyle generally classified as

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Saturday, October 25

Alameda County Leather Corps presents "Submarine Ball & USO Show" at the Turf Club in Hayward tonight, with cocktails and a buffet reception at 1830. The ball begins at 2200. Also a chance to win a 7-day stay for four people in Hawaii.

Sunday, October 25

"Mama" will pin the 500th member of her extended family today at Daddy's from 1600-2000, with a \$7 beer/soda bust and entertainment. The new member's identity will remain secret until he/she is pinned.

Wednesday, October 29

Golden Shower Buddies float around at 933 Harrison tonight. Doors open 2000 to 2300. It's the California version of the Yellow Sea.

Weekend, October 31-November 1

Mr. Connecticut Leather will be chosen in New Haven after a Friday meet & greet, a buffet dinner and contest on Saturday and our own Queen

Cougar as the MC.

Friday, October 31

The High Holy Day of our community. In San Jose, a Fetish & Fantasy Halloween Ball at City Lights (429 So. 2nd St.). Tickets are \$25 at Leather Masters in SJ, Stormy Leather and Rock Hard. A Marquis de Sade dungeon, hors d'oeuvres.

San Franciscans MC host a Halloween party at the Eagle Tavern from 2000-2400 with a \$7 beer/soda bust and Lucifer's Out of Work Strip Club Band.

Saturday, November 1

The American Brotherhood Family (Bill, Sheryl Dee and Jeffrey) hosts a Dessert Auction at the Gauntlet II in Los Angeles with a \$5 donation at the door.

Regiment of the Black & Tans Uniform Club salute the California Boots & Britches Corps on their 35th anniversary with a luncheon in the Oleander Room in Palm Springs. \$25 donation. Call (714) 648-2110 or Regimant@blackandtans.org.

PORN

Hollow weenies

by John F. Karr

It was a trip to the opera house — where, if I may interrupt myself, the only problem with a very merry *Barber of Seville* was that they undressed the wrong guy! It was the regulation tenor who spent the opening scene in his undies, instead of Nathan Gunn, the lean and grizzled, vividly charming baritone who flashed deep-set dimples as the titular hairdresser. I'm sure he's got a barber pole I'd like to write about.

As I was trying to say, it was a trip to the opera house that made me realize that what John Kelly's Joni Mitchell needed was supertitles! Joni's singing, equal parts cat-erwaul and yodel, butchers the vocal line so thoroughly that a neophyte to most of her songs such as I can barely comprehend them. Still, you know you're at an evening of high art when the accompanist is none other than Georgia O'Keeffe, forsaking paintbrushes for some mighty giddy glissando.

Perhaps it was the art and skill of these two evenings that made this week's porn so irritating. Do the producers of this stuff think we go suddenly dumb when we see guys having sex? That's why I like non-plotted porn. It doesn't insult me.

Thor Stephans is the author and director of some likable plotted movies like *Bisexual Nation* and the recent *Sex Psycho*. But he's taking us with *The Haunted House on Sex Hill*. This ghost story clogs its action with a knotted narrative, only to casually jettison it as soon as the laboriously established characters are done with their sex thing. The movie opens with a romantic tryst for two big-titted and aesthetically hung lovers, Braeden Casey and Damon Wolf. It's pretty swoony. But after six minutes, it's abruptly cut off for 12 interminable minutes of plot. Seems the real-estate agent and the lawyer are conniving to



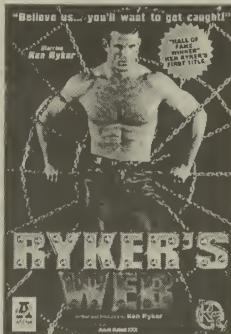
scare Damon out of the mansion he's been willed so that they can auction it off and split the proceeds. This might have been tolerable if handled concisely. But it's not.

Although I enjoyed the lighting and the precise clarity of the videography, the heavy-handed direction of the actors in their plot scenes carries over to the sex, which is pretty impersonal. It lacks

organic continuity as it lurches episodically between positions, and in the first two full-length sex scenes some nominally interesting stars come off tepidly. Halfway through the movie, though, robust Paul Johnson and suave Danny Rhymes really click in their rousing duo, which is thankfully allotted more time than any other scene. It's followed, however, by a DOA threeway. And don't think things will pick up for the finale, where the two lovers will consummate the sizzler they started at the top of the show. It's cut off after a kiss. So, my thanks to Paul and Danny. But one good scene does not a movie make.

Web slight

Although the website selling *Ryker's Web* lists Johnathan Black as its director, the movie itself has no credits whatsoever. It's easy to see why. The first movie written and produced by popular per-



former Ken Ryker, it's so amateur that in calling it that I'm worried you'll confuse it with amateur porn, most of which is miles better than this crabbed affair. Here's a short list of its failings: the plotting is so barely discernible that one merely surmises what is going on; the sex is awkwardly staged, impersonal, and lacking progression, consisting mostly of Ken distractedly letting his dick hang out so guys can suck it before he dispassionately crams it up their asses; natural sound has been removed, so most of the sex plays as a dumbshow (that's when fake moans haven't been dubbed in, an even dumber effect); the unacceptable soundtrack blotting over this alternates between some Muzak so schlocky it would be refused by an elevator, and some synthesized barroom funk that wouldn't be bad if it weren't repeated *ad nauseam* and badly looped at that.

But the biggest drawback is Ken himself. He doesn't kiss, suck, or rim; he keeps his eyes closed as if willing himself into performing, and he's in a very bad mood. He's a frown with a big dick, who doesn't seem to like what he's doing. Why should we?

I hope the performers were well-paid; none of their résumés are flattered by *Ryker's Web*. And since I get the last word, lemme add that Ken's dick is forever spongy and his butt is pimply. ▼

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Karrnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

a "drag" show.

Plenty of leather was in evidence amidst the glamorous gowns, big wigs, bejeweled crowns and jewelry. It was another classic San Francisco get-together.

Three contenders vied for the Miss title, and one for the Mr. title. To make a long story short, know that the new Miss Gay SF is Diana McGuire, and Mr. Gay SF is "Angle" Dunkelberger.

Elsewhere

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, the new Mr. Oklahoma Leather is Keith Hunt. You may remember Mr. Hunt as International Mr. Drummer 1994. What a time we had during his year with the title! Mr. Hunt advances to IML 2004 next May.

In Albuquerque, details are sketchy, but the new Mr. New Mexico Leather is Major Gardener and the new MS. New Mexico Leather is Lori Campbell. No photos at my deadline.

The IML Class of 2004 is growing longer each week. There are several more contests on the

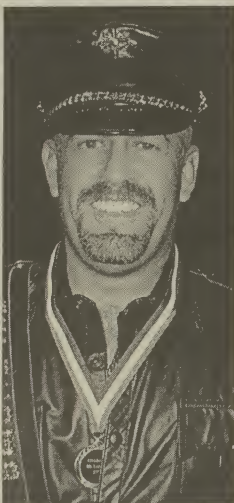
horizon. Stay tuned.

And furthermore...

Somebody somewhere started the rumor that the scoring at IML has been changed to place emphasis on the physique. Nothing could be further from the truth. People who start these rumors should be ashamed of themselves. The physique portion has *never* been the sole criteria for selecting International Mr. Leather.

Each contestant is scored on the interview and on physique during the weekend. The final 20 are chosen from those Olympic scores. The 20 semi-finalists are scored with one score and one score only. The speech, leather image and physique portions of the 20 semi-finalists are scored with one score, which combines those three categories.

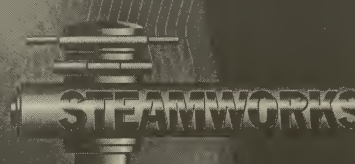
I neglected to mention at the International Leather Sir/boy competition two weekends ago, a Boot black was chosen, and that would be Gwen Hardy of Jacksonville, Florida, who just happens to be the other half of former Ms. World Leather Karen McGee. Gwen advances to compete for the International Ms. Boot Black in Omaha next July. ▼



Keith Hunt was chosen Mr. Oklahoma Leather last Saturday night, Oct. 18 in Tulsa. He was International Mr. Drummer in 1994 and represented the Rocky Mountain Region that year. He advances to compete at IML in May 2004.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

BY MARK MORGAN



Grand Guignol poster from the Eric Horton collection at GrandGuignol.com

Peddling thrills

They've got us surrounded! The ghoulish Republicans are after us! But don't be paranoid. They may be scary, but really they love us cuddly liburals, 'cause we're so much fun to demonize!

All the Halloween/Samahain rituals/parties this week can't take our minds off the fact that America is stuck in another military mire of its own ill-begotten making. The biggest event this week is the rally and march at **Civic Center on Saturday**, where possibly some good magick might be done to get the **U.S. Out of Iraq**, as well as to free gay conscientious objector **Stephen Funk**, now in a military prison for his defiance of the war. Don your wildest outfit, create your wildest protest placard, and join the movement for peace.

Then on Wednesday, October 29, at 7 p.m., head over to the **San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum (SFPALM)** for a lecture and demonstration entitled "**Magic and Mayhem: Stage Effects of the Grand Guignol**." The event comes to us courtesy of the **Thrillpeddlers**, a Bay Area theatre company dedicated to the repertoire and style of Le Théâtre du Grand Guignol, France's legendary "Theatre of Horrors." That period's haunting legacy will be celebrated by French theater historian Agnès Pierron in a presentation about the ghostly special effects developed by the Grand Guignol.

The Thrillpeddlers will give a live demonstration of these effects as company co-founder Russell Blackwood and the cast of *Shocktoberfest!! 2002* reunite to perform the grisly final scene from a Grand Guignol classic, *A Crime in a Madhouse* (*Un Crime dans une maison de fous*). The performance will be introduced by Mel Gordon, professor of theatre at UC Berkeley and author of *The Grand Guignol: Theatre of Fear and Terror*. Vintage Grand Guignol posters and programs from the collection of Eric Horton (great-grandson of the Grand Guignol director, Charles Nonon) will be on display.

The event also launches the Thrillpeddlers' snazzy new website, www.GrandGuignol.com, which aims to be "the most complete source of Grand Guignol information on the Net." Wicked! Check it out. ▼



The alarming 'Stage Frights' crew at CellSpace (from left, standing): Beth Trifilo, Pete Humphrey, Melissa Schatz, Damacio Ruiz, and (seated) Charles LeBlanc and Kenneth Sears. See Friday.

Stage Frights

@ CELLSpace

Hardcore Thrush Productions presents "Stage Frights: Plays from Hell," a collection of original shorts that take a terrifying look at popular cultural icons. *Dolly Dolly* (by Andrew Calabrese) brings to life the fear that "harmless" dolls come to life at night and plot to kill us; *Pinchy Face Clone Virus* (by Sean Fromer) jokes that a mysterious illness can turn anarchist homosexuals into vapid materialistic Republicans; *Superman* (by Beth Mann & Kenneth Sears) tells the tale of a down-and-out man who begins to take his Halloween costume a bit too seriously; *Pee-Wee's Hell House* (by John Dearing) shows what the playhouse would look like if fundamentalist Christians did a make-over; and *Ghost Story* (by Toby Dixon and Daniel Tobias) is a frightening account of a young woman haunted by her murderous past. \$12-\$20 sliding (\$10 students/artists). 8pm. Also Oct. 25, 26 & 31. 2050 Bryant St. Tix/info: 240-9202.

'Son of Drakula' @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center in association with David Drake presents the West Coast Premiere of *Son of Drakula*, written and performed by David Drake, the acclaimed creator/performer of *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*. In this show, Drake embarks on a hilarious search for identity in all its meanings. Born as David Drakula, he traces his Slavic roots in Transylvania to the shores of the Nov. 8pm Wed-Sat; 2pm Sun thru Nov. 2 (no show Sun, Oct. 31). 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctc.org

'Not Quite Opera's' @ Phoenix Theatre

Not Quite Opera presents "Fall Feast," featuring the winners of its annual Original Musicals Contest in a sampler of five new musical-theater works by regional artists. Excerpts from Diane Sampson and Ronnie Klein's *Wives and Rewives*; Dwight Okamura, Brad Erickson, Elaine Magree, Trauma Flinstone and Julie Queen's collaboration *Burning Louise*; Richard C. Kogel's *The Right to Fabulousness*; Michael Kaukin and Donna Kaukin's *The Empress Wu*; and Charles James Ver Burg's *Shoe*. \$20 (\$15 students). 8pm. Also Oct. 25 at 2:30 & 8pm. The Phoenix Theatre, 414

Mason St. Tix/info: 682-0159; www.noquiteopera.org

'Worse Than Chocolate'

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros presents the second play in its 26th season, *Worse Than Chocolate*, a new comedy written by Jason Post, directed by Jeffrey Hartgraves. Meet Alex, Frankie, Shelly and Paul, four orphans in a storm of mismanagement and romantic under-achievement. Starring Post, Hartgraves, Sina Eiden, Liz Ryan, Megan Harding, Maryssa Wansley, Leon Acord, Cara Wick, and Isaac Brantner, with special guest player Veronique Klaus. In *Worse Than Chocolate*, playwright Post digs deep into the comic/tragic daily life as a lesbian misfit, working for lawyers during the day, to present a sitcom-style comic romp about queer love and lust among the denizens of a SF law firm. Post has previously performed under the name Lisa Post around town, and is currently undergoing transition from female to male. \$15 Wed; \$20 Thu/Sun mat & eves; \$25 Fri & Sat. 8pm (3 & 7pm Sun). Thru Nov. 8 (Oct. 30 is "Straight Night Out" — for daring straight people). The Rhino, 2926 16th St. (Mission & So. Van Ness). Tix/info: 861-5079; www.theatrhino.org

Fencissiters Costume Ball @ Jezebel's Joint

The Fencissiters Costume Ball, a bi dance party. Sexy house, dark techno and slow grooves by DJ Pimprock (Bondage a Go Go) and Happy Kid Marty (Happy Kids). Costumes/Masks Encouraged! 21 up. \$10 with a Threeosome Special: \$2 off for each of the three! 9pm-2am. Jezebel's, 510 Larkin at Turk. Free off-street parking across the street off Turk behind the tire place.

Womyn's Spiral Dance @ Orinda Masonic Temple

Daughters of the Goddess Temple, a feminist spirituality group based in Contra Costa County, presents a "Womyn's Ritual and Spiral Dance" commemorating Halloween (aka Samhain), one of the main events of the yearly cycle for followers of earth-based religion. It is a time to look inward and reflect, and to remember and honor grandmothers and crones. The Spiral Dance mirrors the spiraling energy of galaxies, seashells and whirlpools, the flow of energy moving participants inward to the center, then turning back and flowing outward in a never-ending spiral. Priestessing by Lafayette resident Lellani Birely. Special guest Z Budapest. Music by Jen-

nifer Berezan; drumming by Carolyn Brandy. Artists and craftspeople will have goods for sale. Open to all women. Bring drum & rattles to play, & pictures of loved ones for Day of the Dead altar. \$23 adv; \$27 door. 6:30pm doors; 7:30pm ritual. 9 Altarinda Rd., Orinda. Tix/info: 925-787-9739 or 925-787-9247; www.daughtersofthegoddess.com

'Russian River Massacre' @ Club Fab

SF-based performance artists, drag celebrantes, and filmmakers Putanesca, Juanita More, & Suppositori Spelling, in association with Club Fab, present the "Russian River Massacre" weekend, October 24-26. Three terrifying trannies take over Northern California's favorite sleep-away camp, Guerneville, for a three-day extravaganza of Halloween fun! Your hostesses present four main events for your three-day weekend, as well as a round-trip Halloween party-on-wheels from SF to Guerneville. Tonight: "Scary Mary's Halloween Shorts," featuring the world premieres of brand-new short films written and directed by your hostesses. Join us by the bonfire at the indoor-outdoor haunted warehouse for a night of make-out and murder. Campers: dress warmly, and bring blankets, sleeping bags, and spare pants—'cause you're sure to wet 'em. \$8. 10pm. Club Fab, River Rd., Guerneville. Info: www.putanesca.tv

SF World Film Fest: 'Ashtanga NY'

@ Avalon Ballroom
The SF World Film Festival presents *Ashtanga, NY*, directed by Caroline Laskow (USA; 40 min.) in a program with other short features. In September 2001, the 78-year-old master of Ashtanga yoga, Pattabhi "Gururji" Jois, traveled from Mysore, India for a rare, and perhaps final, workshop for his students in New York City. In a city full of driven, type-A personalities, this rigorous form of yoga, practiced two hours each day, six days a week, is one way to achieve equanimity and flexibility. But what place does the "guru" — a fundamentally Indian tradition — have in Manhattan, circa 2001? After September 11, Jois's unwavering strength and leadership brought solace to his devastated community. *Ashtanga, NY* gives the story behind *Ashtanga*, its aging guru and his following. With Pattabhi Jois, Sharath Rangaswamy, Willem Dafe, Mike D., and Gwyneth Paltrow. \$10. 6pm. Avalon Ballroom, 1268 Sutter St. (at Van Ness). Tix: TicketWeb.com (1-800-965-4827). Info: www.sf-worldfilmfestival.com

25

'Trick and Treats' for The Rhino

Theatre Rhinoceros presents "Tricks and Treats," hosted by the delightful, delicious, deranged P.A. Cooley, with Co-Host "Auntie Dru." A variety spectacular to benefit THEatre RHINOCEROS. Starring Don Seaver (pianist, musician); Leigh Crow (singer of great renown, especially in her hometown); Janis Lipton (comic); Shelley Steward (comic); Acid Housewife (drag singing sensations); Anita Cocktail (faux drag artist); Jeff Manabat (singer); Matthew Martin and Mark Sargeant (*Christmas with the Crawfords*); and The Phat Fly Girls (size inclusive group that has been putting the hip in hip hop since 2001). \$20 (\$15 students/seniors). "Treats" at 7pm; "Tricks" at 8pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 861-5079; www.theatrhino.org

'Crooked' @ Jon Sims Center for the Arts

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents *Crooked*, a work-in-progress by Oakland singer, choreographer, stripper, clown, writer, performance artist and organizer Seeley Quest. A solo show of dance, drag, clowning, singing, x-rays, poetry, character dialogue, and shedding clothes. Can *Crooked* physical, mental, sexual and gendered experience be understood in relationship? This heady tangle of desire, inheritance, embodiment, deviance, crip and trans space will make you sweat. Includes a visual art display. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Info: www.jonsimsctr.org

'Scary Dancing Queens' @ Diva's

Pacific Friends of SF presents "Scary Dancing Queens," a Halloween event for all gay Asians/Pacific Islanders, their partners and friends. Open to all. Guests encouraged to put on their scariest/most creative party dress. Three contests: scariest drag; most original (non-drag); and best overall. Plus "screaming queen" contest for vocalists. Appetizers. Open bar. \$5 Pacific Friends of SF non-members. Diva's, 1081 Post St. (3rd floor). Info: 586-7130; dana@pacificfriends.org

'HellBall 7' @ SF Galleria

Gus Presents *HellBall 7—El Dorado: City of Gold* featuring superstar DJ/producer Tony Moran in his first SF appearance, along with New York's reigning dance diva, Emergence recording artist Kevin Aviance. A benefit for Maitri and Continuum, providing care for those with AIDS/HIV and other life-threatening illnesses. 9pm-6am (March of Light Costume Crowning 9pm-midnight). \$60 gen'l admission; \$100 VIP; (\$150 weekend pass includes "Fresh", "Mass" & more). Info/tix: www.hellball.org

Ggreg Taylor's 'Sexy Mayhem' @ Mezzanine

Join party organizer extraordinaire Ggreg Taylor (Product: Forgotten Opera) for an evening of sexy mayhem. He's hired his artist friend Tyler Ingolia from Product's heady days to do massive custom installation art just for this party, with visual inside jokes for those in the know. On the turntables: DJ Barry Harris from Thunderpuss. The space will be rearranged and decked out to be conducive to hanging out and yammering with pals new and old. Plus: Randal Alan Smith will set up his free photo studio to document attendees. Costumes heavily encouraged; the winner of the individual costume competition will be able to choose a prize from three fantastic offerings: A round-trip dream holiday in glittering Reno, Nevada for two (Tuesday overnight stay required), a one-year membership to Gold's Gym on Market Street, or a (slightly used) washing machine. Winners of the best group costume will win "assorted cheeses." \$20. 10pm till late late late! Mezzanine, 444 Jessie St. (at Mint). Info: ggreg.com/mezzanineSF.com

Queer Swing & Costume Contest @ The Center

Queer Jitterbugs presents "Queer Swing w/Costume Contest!" — an evening of all-ages hep-dancing fun with no experience or partner needed; lessons by award-winning

dancers! Dress like an old time movie star, movie monster, soldier, 50's thug, or Halloween favorite! 7:30pm Basic East Coast Swing Lesson. 8:15pm Big Apple swing line dance w/out a partner. 9pm to Midnight open dancing fun for all. 10pm Contest. \$10 donation; Half off under 21 or with Queer Swing Pass. LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 305-8242; www.QueerJitterbugs.com

Guerneville Costume Crawl @ Guerneville

"Russian River Massacre" continues with the "Guerneville Costume Crawl." Complete for \$500 in cash and prizes as Sinister Suppositori Spelling drags you on a two-hour bar crawl and costume parade. You'll have a chance to win a prize every time we stop at a new watering hole. Break out your Halloween finery and creep around the ghost town's gin mills. Dress up, drink up, and win big! Free. 8:30-10:30pm. Meet at Xen Resort's parking lot, 16484 Fourth Street, Guerneville.

Massacre Spectacular @ Club Fab

The terror has just begun as Putanesca, Juanita More and Suppositori Spelling unite in a live-action horror extravaganza! This is the Halloween blow-out you won't want to miss. DJ Juanita MORE! spins the spookiest sounds of the underground. Mash with monsters and twirl with trolls at Sonoma County's biggest dance club, where nobody leaves without a trick — or at least a treat. The shocking and grotesque cast of performers includes: Hekina of Trannyshack, Buttlicka, Glammore, Veronica Klaus, Pippi Lovestocking, Paul Wanka, Crickett Bardot, Phatima, Trixie Car, Evelyn, Summer Clearance and many more. Tickets \$13. 11pm-7 Club Fab, River Rd., Guerneville

Other Cinema

@ ATA Gallery

ATA Gallery's Other Cinema is honored to host the regional return (from Europe) of Jack Stevenson, film collector, writer, raconteur extraordinaire. Apropos of the ongoing American massacre in Iraq, Stevenson has chosen to discourse on the War Propaganda genre, including cult grotesqueries from Frank Capra that Jack saved from gov't suppression; plus "Japanese Relocation," "Survival under Atomic Attack," and "Army Medicine in Vietnam." Bonus: "Red Nightmare," an example of anti-commie political-surrealism, and clips of contemporary war-mongering. \$5. Doors open 8pm for book-signing (*Land of a Thousand Balcons*). 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

MGM Computer Workshop

Midlife Gay Men offers its free monthly computer workshop. Topic: "All About Internet Security." Discuss free/low-cost options for protecting your privacy, privacy (including how to purge a workplace computer of your networking trail), and minimizing annoying pop-up ads. Learn to detect and purge worms, Trojan horses, and viruses. Discuss managing e-mail and minimizing spam. Each participant will have his own computer during workshop for hands-on training. Free. 2-4pm. To receive the address of the workshop, RSVP to MGM at mgm-mhr@onebox.com or call toll-free 1-866-668-4634.

'End the Occupation of Iraq' rally/march @ Civic Center

International ANSWER and many other pro-peace/anti-war organizations unite to bring you the latest effort to "End the Occupation of Iraq: Bring the Troops Home Now!" Hundreds of thousands of protesters are expected in SF, Washington DC and other major cities around the world to demand an end to the occupation of Iraq and the slaying of social services. The demonstrations will connect the decline in money for housing, AIDS and health care with the increasing cost of the occupation. As with all previous national marches, lesbian, gay, bi and trans activists from across the country are mobilizing to build contingents, feeder marches and providing leadership for October 25th. The Mass March & Rally Gathers 11am at Civic Center (Grove & Larkin Streets, near Civic Center BART). The "Free Stephen Funk" contingent supported by Out Against the War and Queers for Peace and Justice will meet around 10:30am on the steps of the Public Library, the side facing the new Asian Museum. Look for banners. Stephen

Funk is the out queer Filipino conscientious objector who is serving time for refusing to kill in Iraq. Support conscientious objectors! End the war! Bring home the troops! Free Stephen Funk! Info: www.internationalanswer.org

Sun 26

'Coming Out in Asian/Pacific America' @ Hormel Center

The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center of the San Francisco Public Library, Asian and Pacific Islander Family Pride, Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, Asian Pacific Islanders for Human Rights, Gay Asian Pacific Alliance and O-Musubi present: "Coming Out in Asian/Pacific America," a book reading and panel discussion. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex Asian/Pacific Americans share stories of growing up and becoming activists for social justice. Participating contributors to *Restored Selves: Autobiographies of Queer Asian/Pacific American Activists*, the new anthology edited by Kevin K. Kumashiro include: Alain Anh-Tuan Dang, Wei Ming Dariosis, Loren R. Javier, David C. Lee, Jeanette Mei Gim Lee, and Dana Y. Takagi. Reception and light refreshments to follow. Free. 1pm. Latino/Hispanic Community Room, SF Public Library, Main Branch, Lower Level, 100 Larkin St.

'Trannies for Tom'

@ Club Galia

Artists for Ammiano present "Trannies for Tom," a fundraiser for the Tom Ammiano for Mayor campaign. Featuring spoken-word, hip hop, and more. Hosting by Fairy Butch, Julia Serrano (spoken word), Rocco aka MC Katastrophe (hip hop artist), Sherilyn Connelly (spoken word), Red Jordan Arabateau (spoken word), Frankie Tanderloin & The Rent Boys (the drag king supergroup), Shawna Virago (musician), angel on the nod and the phantasy deylment (with members of Floating Corpses), Jose Navarrette & Debby Kajiyama, Jesselle Bie, Arnel Alcorado, Dance Brigade, Sini Anderson, Gisselle, Garza, Fij Rodriguez, La Jaiha, the Madame of the romantic music with William Morin, drag king troupe The Dangers, Lynn Breedlove (spoken word), and Lu Read & Cricket Bardot. 6pm doors; 6:30 veggie chili fest; 7pm Halloween Runway; 7:30pm show. Cash bar only. \$10-\$500 sliding (18-21 pay what you can). 7-10pm. Club Galia, 2565 Mission St. (btwn 21st & 22nd). Tix: 273-4633; info: www.clubgalia.com

'Truth is Fiction'

@ Rite Spot Cafe

Writers at the Rite Spot present "Truth is Fiction," an evening of short story and nonfiction, with special musical guest Bambi Lake. Featuring Roger Pinnell, whose fiction has appeared in *Bananafish*, *Holy Titclamps*, and *The Y-Files*, with an upcoming story in the *Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly* in 2004. In the late '80s he was the singer for Piglatin, plus Horehound Stillpoint and Robin Akimbo. Torch singer Bambi Lake, the darling of the Odeon bar, launched to stardom with the Angels of Light back in the day, and survived the Mabuhay era punk scene. Her memoir, *The Unsinkable Bambi Lake*, was published by Manic-D Press. \$3. 7:30pm. 2099 Folsom St. (at 17th). Info: 552-6066; www.ritespotcafe.com

'hiccup' @ Corona Heights Playground

"hiccup: queer and genderfuck playground" An outing for freeks & geeks, fashion impaired nerds welcome. pro-style wrestling — bring your rasser outfit. drag makeovers. basketball. klutziness required. bumpin' tunes. rope tricks. 1-5 pm. Corona Heights Playground. From Castro/Market (Castro Street Station) stay on Castro, cross Market & 17th, pass the Arco Gas Station; turn left on the next street (States St.); go up the little hill and around the curve; Corona Heights Playground is on your right (look for the hiccup signs). Info: www.kithology.net/hiccup

Radical Faerie Coffee @ Cafe Sienna

Radical Faerie Coffee takes place at a new location, the lovely Cafe Sienna. Join your faerie friends for food and socializing. 10:30am-1:30pm. Cafe Sienna, 2041 Market St. (btwn Church &



Halloween week kicks into high gear with Grgreg Taylor's 'Sexy Mayhem' at Mezzanine. See Saturday.

Dolores, across from Safeway, up from Eros).

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Hike. This delightful loop through old and new growth redwood groves follows a spring-fed creek that flows luxuriantly right through the driest autumns. A moderate 8-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

'Knockers Up'

@ Harvey's Castro

Lance Brittain (*Pride Idol* creator; Mr. Gay SF 2003) and Ken Davis Phoenix (*Pride Idol* committee) present "Knockers Up," an evening of cabaret with *Pride Idol* winner Marianne Kouken and friends, benefitting the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. Featuring *Pride Idol* contestants Trish Pulido, Tiffany Robinson, Michael Kaye, and Cameron Weston. Contest for "Best Dressed Knockers." Sponsored by Red Hook. 8-11pm. Castro & 18th.

Mon 27

Pippi Lovestocking

@ 'QComedy'

QComedy presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy," this week hosted by the slightly tipsy Pippi Lovestocking, with LA-based comic Marti MacGibbon, Robert Ayala, Maggie Dolan, Erin Souza, Laura Swisher, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding. Reception at 7:30pm; show at 8pm. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. Tix/info: www.harveymilk.org

'Dark Nights'

@ The Powerhouse

LocoJoto Productions presents the premiere of "Dark Nights," the first of a monthly series showcasing darkly enchanting sounds by legendary underground trance-dance maestro DJ Logos, plus movies by Super8Man, guessing games, live performances and more. Gaze into the dark box of magical symbolism. Dress in costume; prize for best. \$5 max (dress up to pay less). 10pm-2am. 1347 Folsom St. (btwn 9th/10th). Info: 552-8689

Left Coast Beethoven

@ The Green Room

The Left Coast Chamber Ensemble presents Beethoven's Legacy, featuring Beethoven's *String Quartet in C-sharp minor, Op. 131*, plus four new LCEE-commissioned works by William Beck (*Communio*), Yu Hui Chang (*String Quartet*), Sam Nichols (*Harm*), and Mark Wings (*Gloss*), created to reflect one of Beethoven's greatest works in a 21st century mirror. \$19 (\$15 student/senior). 8pm. Green Room, War Memorial Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 642-8054; www.ChamberMusicPartn.org

Western Star Dancers

@ Mission Playground

Free intro to Square Dancing Class. 7:30-9:30pm. Mission Playground (btwn Valencia & Guerrero). Info: Steve: 861-1447.

Tue 28

United Genders of the Universe @ El Rio

Benefit for United Genders of the Universe!

Help support genderqueer/transgender support groups and a gender education speaker's bureau. For all "freaks, punks, queers, transies, genderqueers, men, women, genderfuckers, multiples, femmes, intersexes, rockstars, shyboys, skaterz, strippers, activists, work-ers, artists, felons, and everyone else — all genders welcome!" Featuring Fairy Butch as your MC; DJ Sam spinning hip hop, queer 80's, and punk rock; spoken word with Lynnee Breedlove, Celestina Pearl, mk, and Daphne Gottlieb; hip hop with Jaycub Perez, Urban Hermit, and Juba Kalamka of Deep Dickollective; drag kings including Big Apples, ub Mackin, Tightee Whiteez, One Hit Blunders, The Transfomers, and The Dangers; and burlesque with Burlesque-Esque, and Coco Kane. \$5-\$15. Doors open 7:30pm, show at 8pm. 21+ w/I.D. 3158 Mission St. (btwn Cesar Chavez and Valencia). Info: 282-3325; www.elriof.com

'Trannyshack Halloween'

@ The Stud

Ghoulsh tranny Johnny Kat joins superstar drag diva Heklina and her scary crew for a super-tasty Halloween bash. Expect a haunting experience! Come in your wickedest tranny attire, or be your evil self. Tunes by DJ Pinky Ring. At the door: the delectable MISS Chocolate! \$6. 10pm-3am. 9th & Harrison. Info: heklina.com. (P.S., don't forget Heklina and crew will be on the main stage at Castro & Market on Halloween night, 7-11pm!). Info: heklina.com

'Locating Intimacy'

@ SF Camerawork

Opening reception: SF Camerawork presents "Locating Intimacy: The Space Between," curated by Marisa S. Olson & Frank Yamrus. The show explores the space(s) of desire, engaging viewers in contemplation of spectatorship, exhibitionism and fantasy. Witness "fantasy rooms," abandoned sites of sexual encounter, recontextualized pornographic stills and disorienting corporeal projections. Intimacy, itself, is revealed to be a diverse construction. Artists: Katharina Bosse, Laura Carlton, Elinor Carucci, Vince Gianni, Charles Cohen, Elena Dorfman, Bill Durgin, Laura Letinsky, and Nagla Walker. Free. 5-8pm. 1246 Folsom St. Info: 863-1001; www.sfcamerawork.org

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Wed 29

BAAITS Potluck

@ The Center

Community Potluck hosted by Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS), a group that exists to restore and recover the role of Two-Spirit people within the American Indian/First Nations community by creating forums for the spiritual, cultural and artistic expression of Two-Spirit people. This event is free, but please bring something to share (food, non-alcoholic drink, song, poem, another raffie item). Call to confirm. Check board upon entering the Center for room number. 7-9pm. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info/RSPV: 865-5616; www.baaitis.org

Thu 30

Pepperspray/Plough-hound/Bobbleheads

@ Eagle Tavern

"Thursday Nite Live" at the Eagle Tavern presents an all-star live-music line-up featuring three great local bands in a kick-ass concert: Pepperspray, Ploughhound and The Bobbleheads. 9pm. The Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. 626-0880; www.sfeagle.com

LYRIC Masquerade

Ball @ The Center

LYRIC's 5th Annual Masquerade Ball, with a Costume Contest and Talent Show (9-10pm), VIP Room, and Prizes. A clean and sober event for youth under 23 (25 & under Trans). No Cover. 8pm-Midnight. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street @ Octavia. Info: Aldo at 865-5614; aldo@lyric.org; www.lyric.org

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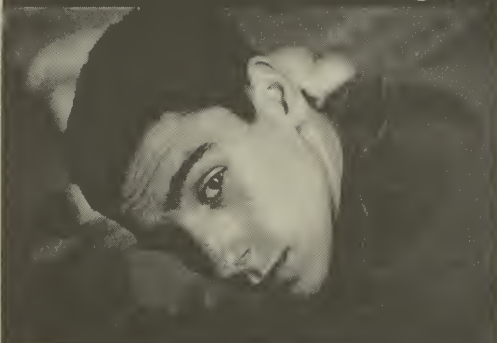
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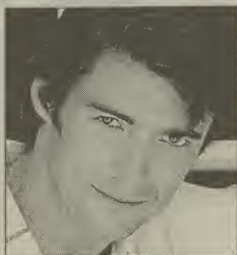
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Broadway babies

◀ Arts cover

manding Garland; slept with her husband, Mark Herron; married and divorced Liza Minnelli; came out publicly as a gay man; triumphed in cabaret and with the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall; had a legendary Broadway flop with *Legs*, his musical about '20s gangster Legs Diamond; and composed memorable pop tunes.



Hugh Jackman has panache.

The straight Jackman sings well and dances, like Allen, with more panache than finesse, brilliantly conveying his enthusiasm for performing. It's a star turn in the best sense. He gets excellent support from Isabel Keating, whose resemblance to Garland is eerie; Beth Fowler as his mother (her rendition of "Don't Cry Out Loud" is lacerating); and Mitchell David Federan as the young Peter. Ironically, as Minnelli, Stephanie J. Block looks more like Lorna Luft, but she captures the neediness of the budding star. As Allen's lover Greg Connell — who drags him out of the closet and encourages his flamboyance — square-jawed Michael Mulhern clicks with Jackman; they're an incendiary couple. The dazzling finale, "I Go to Rio," had the audience on its feet. The show touches on the less-appealing aspects of Allen's personality, but don't expect a definitive biography. As directed by Philip Wm. McKinley and written by Martin Sherman (*Bent*), it is, rather, a celebration of Allen's

passion for show biz; and on that level, it delivers.

'Gypsy' vibes

Peters' Mama is more subtle but just as deadly as Merman's. Ethel made her entrance running



Bernadette Peters is Mama Rose.

down the aisle; Bernadette walks briskly. She's like someone you meet at a coffee shop, seemingly pleasant, who becomes obsessive, controlling, monstrous. Merman put you on notice immediately; Peters sneaks up on you. When she belts out "Everything's Coming Up Roses," it's an anguished response to her younger daughter's betrayal and an announcement that the older one, Louise, will suffer the full focus of her thwarted theatrical dreams. It's a terrifying moment. As the teenage Gypsy, Tammy Blanchard is sexy and intelligent, and struts her stuff well. In the small part of Tulsa, the appealing David Burtka stops the show with "All I Need Is the Girl." The rest of the cast is fine, with one exception: Kate Buddeke is a thick-waisted Miss Mazeppa and fails to get the humor from her "Bump It with a Trumpet" spot in the famous "You Gotta Get a Gimmick" number. Sam Mendes' direction keeps everyone human but not necessarily likable. Jerry Roberts has updated some of Jerome Robbins' choreography. Anthony Ward designed the witty costumes.

The good news about the current revival of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is that the play remains as powerful, if not as shocking, as it



Ashley Judd plays Maggie the Cat.

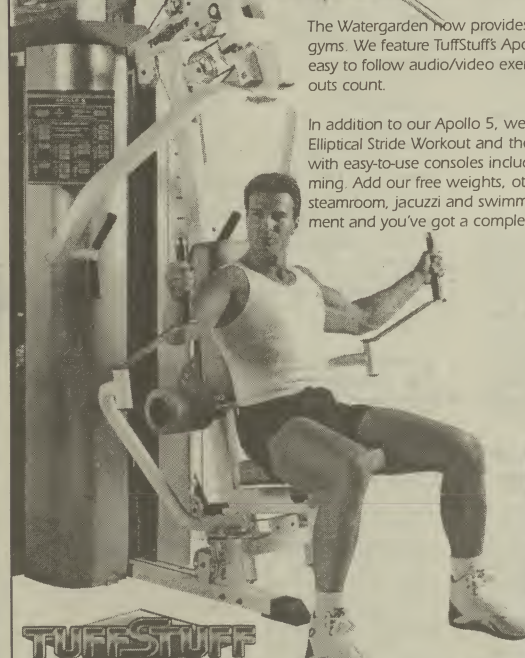
did 48 years ago. Now in previews before opening in November, it's possible the performances will improve. Judd is a sexy Maggie the Cat and brings energy to the first act, which is virtually her monologue. But she fails to vary her vocal rhythms and doesn't seem passionately in love with Patrick's Brick, the toughest male role in the Williams canon. (Taylor's desire for Newman in the film was palpable.) Except for his confrontations with Maggie and Big Daddy (Beatty), Brick should be a quiet yet anxiously coiled presence. Patrick handles the rages well, but is otherwise passive. His light, nasal voice doesn't help. He may get better, but it's unlikely he will generate electricity.

Beatty's Big Daddy won't erase memories of Ives, but he's still towering: angrily confronting his imminent death, accepting Brick's homoerotic relationship with his dead college friend Skipper with the bitter wisdom of a man who's been around. When he pushes Brick to admit that Skipper may indeed have been in love with him (a revelation he couldn't handle), sparks fly memorably. Margo Martindale's Big Mama is fatuous, touching, brave, and totally convincing in her love for the brutal Big Daddy, a remarkable performance. As the greedy, rejected older son and his ever-pregnant wife, Michael Mastro and Amy Hohn are too one-dimensional. Anthony Page's direction is well-paced and doesn't soften the bleakness of this version of the play, revised by Williams in 1974. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

TheaterRhino, Sun-Matinee, 9/14
You: BM, front row. Me: WM up steps in back. Our eyes met. We smiled & nodded "hello". You made my day. Can I see you smile again? Pls. call. ☎ 72835

Folsom Gulch Sat 9-27 2:30 PM
You very handsome, dark hair, slim, smooth, uncult young man in left rear booth. Me older man who sucked you. Very nice. Would like to do it again. ☎ 72839

9/20/03 Grupo Hispano
We talked about bathroom waterfall, broken cabinet and lying poorly. You said communication is a good way to know someone. I want to communicate with you. ☎ 72840

Badlands After Folsom St Fair
Sorta danced together. Me: brown, lit, orange Adidas. You: blondish, white shirt, jeans, cute dancer. You said date. Gave my number. May have been wrong or illegible. Still want date! L. ☎ 72849

Sausage Factory Sat 9/27 5:30pm
You flirted and smiled at me several times. I wore a black "Hairspray" t-shirt. You had short hair, wore glasses, and had a tattoo on your neck. Let's talk. ☎ 72850

You-Kent State Sweatshirt
Me, Green outback hat. We exchanged smiles on MUNI leaving Castro St. Fair, Again as I turned exiting up Civic Center escalator. Wished I'd said Hi. Let's meet. ☎ 72858

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

"Best Buds"
Masculine, muscular, Italian topman looking for buds to hang with. Dinner, movies, football, politics and travel. Need a vacation? Be masculine and fun. 30-50. ☎ 72836

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Hot Top 40
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Squirrel Seeking Nuts
4 the winter. 31yr old Latino 5'8", 170 good build blk br, brn eyes. Available 4 Caucasian men, 25-35 yr old for fun intimate encounters. ☎ 72842

Crazy For Blond!!
Brazilian, light skin, 37yrs, 5'7", 145lbs nice body dick a plus. Single, no drugs, clean hygiene. Seeking WM under 50 round butt and lovely. To be mine forever and I will be only for you. ☎ 72843

Cute Young European
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GWM Couple Seeks Asian Guy
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Seeking guys into smooth and shaved tall & lanky top 50's HIV- who loves attention then plows you. ☎ 72854

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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

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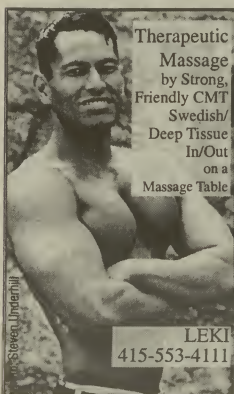
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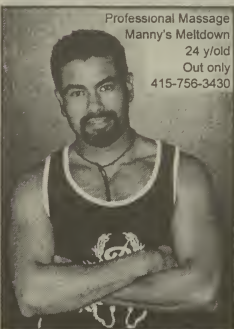


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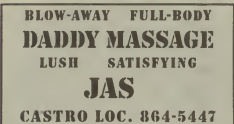
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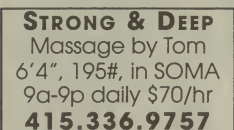
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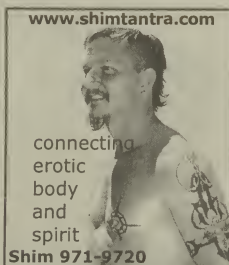


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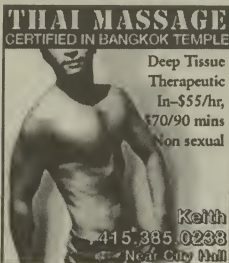
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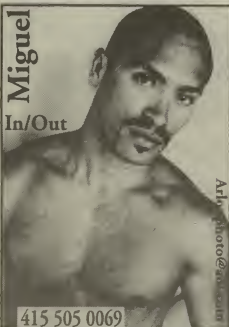
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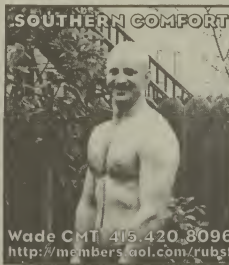
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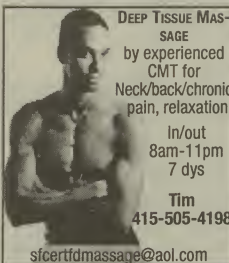
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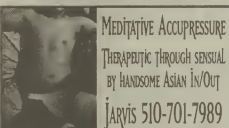


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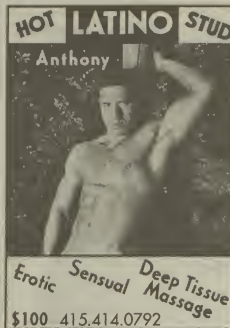
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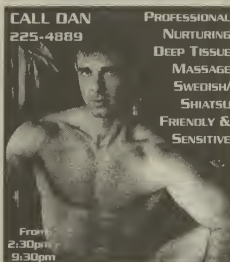
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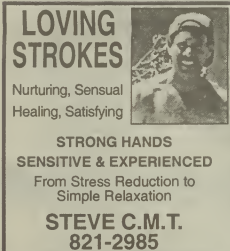
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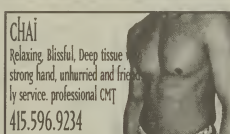
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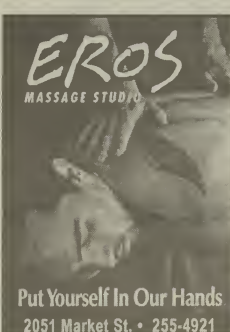


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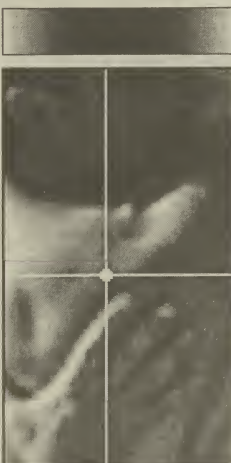
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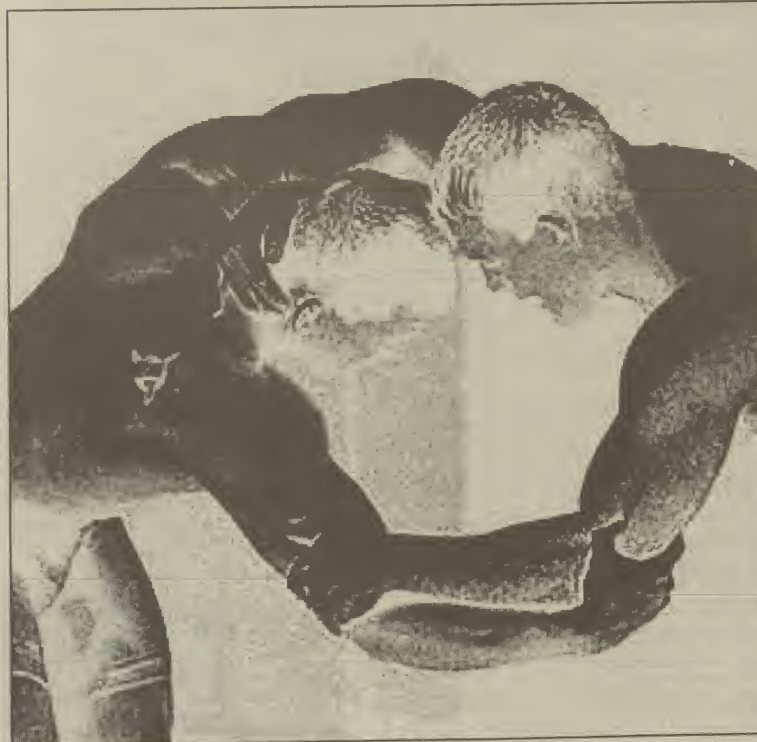
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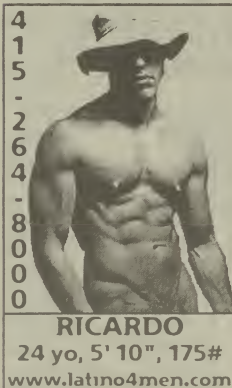
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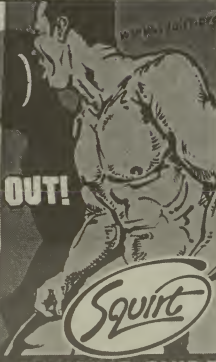
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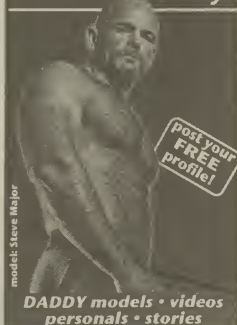
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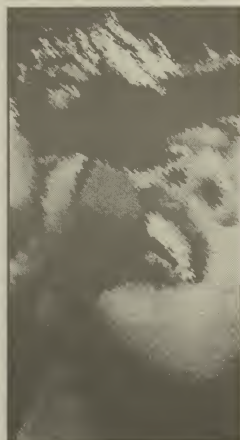
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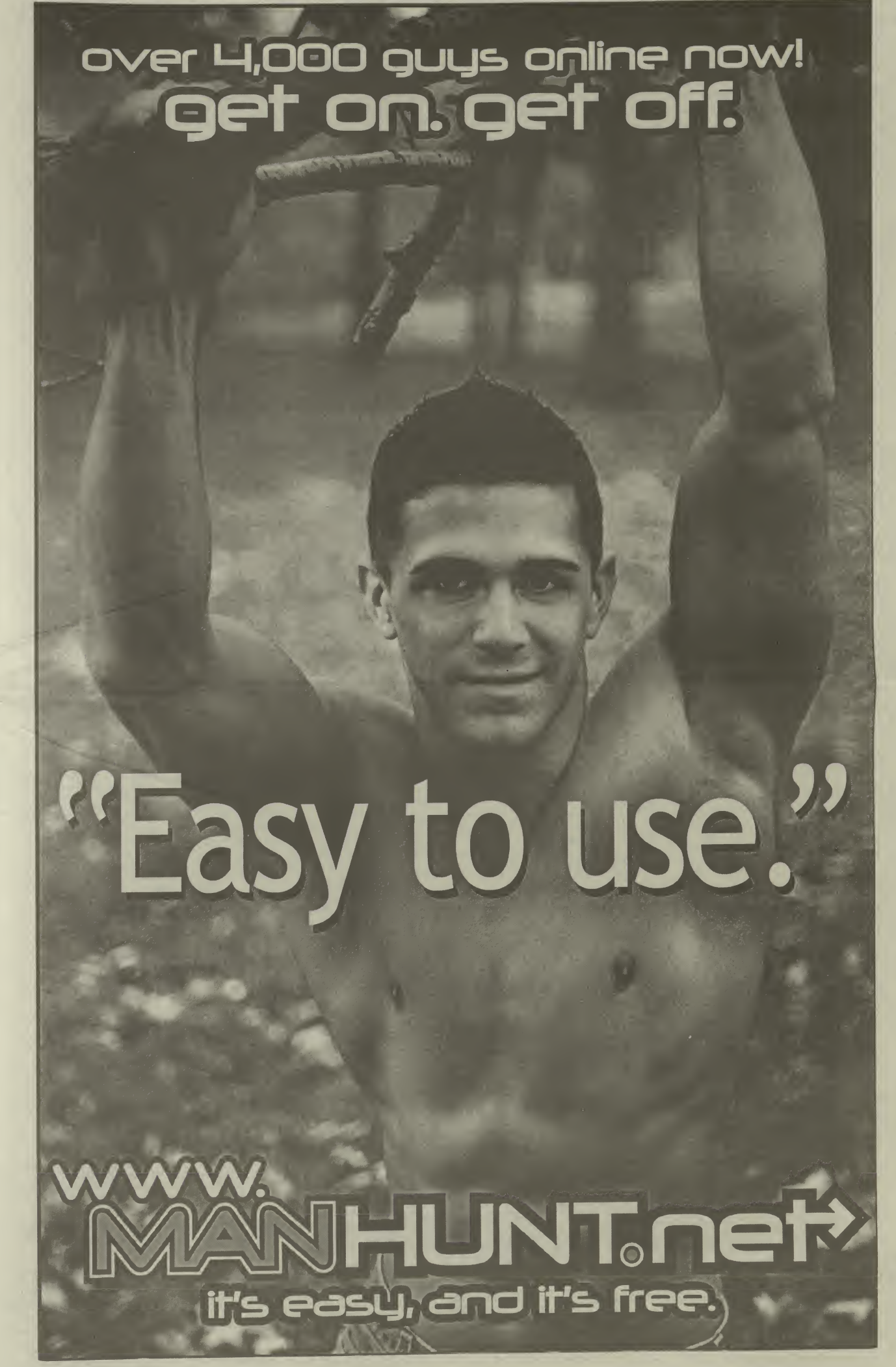
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